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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 15TH APRIL.

WE TAKE from the English papers brought in by the last mail the following Parliamentary intelligence about Indian affairs:

The Maharajah Scindia.

Mr. O'Donnell asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether it was true that on the occasion of the Delhi Assemblage His Highness the Maharaja Scindia, when paying his visit to the Viceroy, was kept waiting outside the Viceroy's tent for nearly an hour previous to admission, and whether it was true that no explanation had since been rendered to his Highness.

Lord G. Hamilton said.—We have no official information upon the incident referred to, but as I know from an authoritative private source what occurred I have no objection to state it. At the Delhi assemblage Lord Lytton had in the space of two days to call upon and return visits from upwards of 200 of the native princes and nobility. Every precaution was taken to prevent the native princes from being kept waiting, but by some unforeseen accident Maharajah Scindia and some others were kept waiting an hour. As Scindia was unwell upon that day the delay was doubly annoying to him, and on coming into the Viceroy's presence, though perfectly courteous, his demeanour indicated some annoyance. Next day Maharajah Scindia spontaneously gave an explanation, which was at once accepted by the Viceroy, and upon the declaration of Her Majesty's title Scindia was the first to reply and thus led to the loyal response of the other chiefs to the Viceroy's address. (Hear, hear.)

The License Tax in India.

In answer to Mr. O'Donnell, Lord G. Hamilton said that a copy of the License Tax Act would shortly be laid on the table of the House. He must, however, say that it was true that the minimum income liable to taxation under the Act was 100 rupees, and that the Government had vested the whole administration of the Act in the hands of the collectors.

Indian Taxation.

Mr. Fawcett presented a petition, signed by 8,200 inhabitants of Bombay, both Europeans and natives against the proposed new taxation. He had been informed by one well competent to judge that there was not a single mercantile firm in Bombay a representative of which had not signed the petition. The petitioners strongly objected to any increase of the salt duty being imposed upon a people who had recently recovered from a severe famine. Considering the importance of the petition he begged to move that it be printed.

The speaker informed the hon. member that the ordinary course was that the petition should go before the Committee on Petitions, and if they should not think proper to direct that it should be printed it would be open to the hon. member afterwards to make a motion to that effect.

Taxation in India.

Notice of motion by Mr. Fawcett: 1. That this House regrets that the people of Madras and Bombay should be burdened with the increased salt duty which has been recently imposed upon them, and is of opinion that such an increase would be unnecessary if the finances of India were administered with greater economy. 2. That this House, while admitting the expediency of creating a fund in India for the relief of famines, objects to the Trades' License Tax, which will alone be imposed on those engaged in business, and will, moreover, fall upon small traders and artisans with undue severity. 3. That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the fund which is to be created in India for the relief of famines should not be expended on public works, the returns on which are uncertain, but should be devoted to the reduction of debt, or should be kept as a reserve in a separate account, duly invested.

Lord's Day Act in India.

Lord G. Hamilton, in reply to Mr. Charley, said: During the passage of the Civil Procedure Code, which is a Consolidation Bill, through the Legislative Council in India last year, a schedule was inserted repealing the Lord's Day Act. As this insertion was not germane to the Act, and as it was on other grounds objectionable, the Government of India were directed to introduce a bill repealing this schedule. They have objected to this order, on the ground that, in their belief, the most important part of the Lord's Day Act was not applicable to India, and have not as yet introduced any repealing bill. The Civil Procedure Act has not yet been assented to by the Home Government.

The New Indian Press Law.

Lord G. Hamilton, in reply to Mr. Sullivan, said he believed that the telegrams which had appeared in the newspapers on the 15th inst. correctly described the new law regulating the liberty of the press in India. Her Majesty's Government had not yet received a copy of the Act; but so soon as one came to hand there would be no objection to laying it on the table of the House.

Mr. Fawcett addressed to the *Times* the following letter regarding the Bombay petition in respect of the License Tax Act:

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir—You stated last week in a telegram from Bombay that the largest and most influential meeting ever held in that city had recently protested against the new taxation which has just been imposed in India for the creation of a famine fund. It was also stated that at that meeting it was decided to petition the House of Commons against the increase in the Salt Duty in Bombay and Madras, which will fall with peculiar hardship on a people just recovering from a severe famine. The petitioners, while cheerfully accepting their own liability to bear a share of the burden, strongly object to the Trades' License Tax, because the official and professional classes are exempted from contributing to the famine fund. They also

urge that the tax should not fall with undue severity upon small traders and artisans.

This petition I presented in the House of Commons yesterday. Not only was it unanimously adopted by the meeting above referred to, but it has also been signed by 8,200 of the inhabitants of Bombay, both European and Native. As already mentioned in your columns, the petition was signed by the representative of every important mercantile firm in Bombay.

I enclose a copy of the petition, as I think the case of the petitioners is stated with so much ability and moderation that if you can find space for its publication it will well repay perusal by all who are interested in Indian finance.

The chairman of the meeting, Mr. Donald Graham, in forwarding the petition says: "The meeting will long be remembered here as the largest ever assembled in Bombay."

Yours faithfully,

HENRY FAWCETT.

March 20.

The *Times* did not condescend to publish the petition!

THE BUDGET RESOLUTION of the Bengal Government published in the *Calcutta Gazette* for the 3rd instant contains the following remarks:

"In the statements appended to the Resolution No. 1911 of the 18th March, the estimates of the majority of these funds have, however, also as a matter of fact been incorporated in the Imperial Estimates, though it is still declared that 'the receipts and disbursements of those local funds which are appropriated to specially defined purposes, or are quasi-private property and are not at any stage under the direct control of the Local Governments, and do not affect whole provinces will still be excluded from the general estimates and accounts, and shown in subsidiary statements.' It is added that, 'excepting the Port Funds, their amount will be unimportant.'"

This Government had no opportunity of expressing its views as to the manner and extent to which the various local funds, fall within the category of funds suitable for incorporation in the general accounts, and for this year the distribution directed by the Government of India must be accepted as it stands. But the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to think that the Government of India may on further examination of the accounts be convinced that the selection of funds for incorporation has not been altogether in accordance with the principles which it has itself laid down.

This is the way Provincial Governments are consulted about provincial finance!

THE DIFFERENT local funds of Bengal are thus enumerated in the Budget Resolution:

District Road Fund.	Jugurnath Road Fund.
District Road Account.	Town Improvement Fund.
Zemindari Dak Fund.	The various minor Port Funds.
Fund for the Management of	Hospital Port Dues Fund.
Wards Estates.	Pound Fees.
Government Estates Improve-	Pledgership Examination Fees.
ment Fund.	Circuit house Rents.
Inland Labor Transport Fund.	Steam-boiler Inspection Fees.
Zoological Garden Fund.	Ferry Tolls.
Salt Reward Fund.	Road Tolls.
Encamping Ground Grazing	Canal Tolls.
Fund.	River Tolls.
The Cantonment Fund.	Strand Bank Rents.
Poorer Pilgrim Fund.	Staging Bungalow Receipts.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR makes the following remarks in the Budget Resolution on judicial establishments:

The Lieutenant-Governor has it in contemplation to invite the High Court to assist in a general scrutiny and revision of ministerial judicial establishments, which may possibly effect some savings. But there can be no doubt that the Government must be prepared very shortly to meet a large increase in the number of Moonsiffs, as well as the cost of the system of appellate benches, now under reference to the Secretary of State. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes, however, that some part at least of the increased cost of Moonsiffs may be met by a revision and re-arrangement of grades in the Subordinate Judicial Service.

THE FOLLOWING remarks of the Lieutenant Governor refer to Police retrenchments:

The Inspector General of Police is now engaged on a detailed examination of the Police allotments of all the districts in Bengal, in view to extensive reductions, which are believed to be both possible and desirable. Already reductions aggregating Rs. 32,000 have been made in the case of Orissa, and it is expected that the retrenchments throughout Bengal will aggregate not less than Rs. 1,75,000. These reductions will not in any way impair the real efficiency of the force, being based upon a more careful adaptation of the Police arrangements to local requirements and on certain improvements of system, as to which there is a general agreement among the most experienced District and Police officers.

UNDER THE Head of Education occur the following remarks:

Under Education the provincial expenditure has been estimated at Rs. 25,72,000, against Rs. 24,34,000, the revised estimate for 1877-78, and Rs. 24,47,958, the actual expenditure of 1876-77. Provision has been made in the estimates for the introduction of the graded scheme of teachers' salaries, and for the maintenance and gradual extension of the Government Art Gallery. To the above figure for 1878-79 has to be added Rs. 23,000 expenditure debited to the Estates Improvement Fund, making the total grant under this head Rs. 25,95,000.

TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL has decided upon taking in hand and pushing on as rapidly as possible the following important Public Works, making grants from Service Funds to the extent specified against each:—

Concentration of the Government Offices in Writers' Buildings, (postponed in 1875-76)	350,000
Improvements in the Medical College Hospital (estimated at 6 lakhs of rupees, half of which will be found by the Government of India)	800,000
Public Works Practical Training Institution	280,000
Jail Buildings	230,000
Court-houses at Durbhunga and Motiharee	210,000
Assam Emigration Road	150,000
Other Provincial roads and minor works	150,000
Improving navigable channels between Balasore and Pooree	50,000
Grant.	Rs.
	1,700,000

THE BUDGET RESOLUTION of the Bengal Government thus concludes:

"The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the Bengal Government should ordinarily maintain a credit balance under provincial funds of not less than 20 lakhs of rupees to enable it to meet the vicissitudes of bad years, without being driven to put a sudden and disastrous stop to all works of improvement. Doubtless, when widespread and serious calamity comes upon the province, local resources at their best will not suffice to meet it, and everything must be sacrificed to the exigency of the moment. But the local Government should in normal years be in a sufficiently strong position to contemplate without dismay any mere temporary fluctuations in its excise and stamp revenue arising from bad crops and the like, and on the other hand it should be able to undertake from time to time works of more than common magnitude with the certainty of being able to complete them without curtailing its ordinary expenditure. Upon these principles the estimates for 1878-79 have been framed. If there seems during the year to be any prospect of a larger balance accumulating than it seems necessary to maintain special arrangements will be made for putting in hand further works, which have already been decided upon."

We concur.

A LONDON CORRESPONDENT SAYS, "Mr. Lucy in *Mayfair* calls Mr. Labouchere the 'chiffonnier' of the Press, and Mr. Labouchere in *Truth* calls Mr. Lucy the 'cretin' of the same: and yet both *Truth* and *Mayfair* profess to address themselves to classes above the vulgar." And yet the Indian Vernacular Press is alone charged with pandering to low and vicious tastes.

THE SAME WRITER SAYS: "COLONEL MALLESON is editing, or rather re-writing, the third volume of Kaye's *Sepoy War*, and, I am told, very much in the trenchant style of the *Red Pamphlet*; so you may look out for squalls."

A REPORT comes from Nipal that the heir apparent of the Maharajah died on the 30th ultimo.

ALL THE BUTCHERS of Bankipore are said by the local paper to have closed their shops, as a protest against the imposition of the license tax.

THE NEW ITALIAN MINISTER is accused of bigamy. Signor Crispi, the Minister of the Home Department, who not long ago undertook a journey to Berlin, and was thought to be bringing about an alliance between Germany and Italy, has been compelled to resign on a public charge, morally, if not legally justified, of bigamy. Last year Signor Crispi was married to the Countess Barbagalle; it now transpires that he had a wife, or a lady who passed for twenty years as his wife, living at the time—Rosalia Montmasson. Signor Crispi does not himself deny that he went through the ceremony of marriage with the latter lady in Malta two decades since, but he alleges that the marriage thus contracted was not binding, in consequence of some omission in the formalities of the registration which the law prescribes in the case of aliens—as both he and his bride when at Malta were. The deserted lady is ventilating her wrongs pretty freely; and even if the matter is hushed up, Signor Crispi's retirement from political life will probably be inevitable. This is much to be regretted, since he is one of the most capable, patriotic, and disinterested statesmen that Italy has recently had.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH APRIL.

THE GOVERNMENT of India has received orders to despatch troops from this country to Malta. The following regiments have been selected—the Ninth Bengal Cavalry; First Bombay Light Cavalry; Second Ghoorkas, 13th; and the 31st Regiment Bengal Native Infantry; the 25th Madras Native Infantry; two regiments of Bombay Native Infantry; two field batteries of Artillery from Bombay; two companies of Sappers and Miners from Bombay; and two from Madras. The Native Infantry will be brigaded with the British Infantry on arrival at Malta. Major Adams, Assistant Quarter-master

General, and Major Keys, Assistant Commissary General, have been sent to Malta to make arrangements for the reception of the troops.

ANOTHER of our remarks on the abuse of patronage in the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D. a correspondent of the *Statesman* gives the following facts in corroboration of our statement:

"Of the eight First Grade Assistant Examiners, three joined the department as late as 1869, two during 1871, one in 1872-1873, and in 1874 respectively."

"Of the eight Second Grade Assistant Examiners, two joined in 1869, one in 1872, 1873, 1874 and 1875 respectively, and two in 1876."

"Of the eight third-Grade Assistant Examiners, one joined in 1869 (on leave for 24 months), one in 1872, two in 1873, two in 1874, one in 1875, and one in 1876."

"Of the 31 Accountants, 1st Grade, 25 joined before 1869. Of the 34 Accountants, 2nd Grade, 28, and of 128 of the 4th Grade, 77 joined the department before 1869."

Two of the Accountants, 1st Grade, have received no promotion since 1863. Likewise two in the 2nd Grade, and in the third Grade there is a large number who have had no promotion since 1864, 1865, and 1866.

We again ask, what is Sir Andrew Clarke about?

ANOTHER Correspondent of the above journal, thus confirms Mr. Knight's statement about famine mortality in the N. W. P.:

Mr. Knight's letters from Agra have placed before the world in language unmistakable, the fact that a great, a terrible famine has existed for months past, and that 150 to 200 mortal beings have hourly closed their eyes in death during the whole of the month of January last, from the awful pangs of slow starvation!

The awful sights of distress which I myself have seen in Agra at the beginning of the year, would (speaking non-professionally) justify any medical man in making a report as bad in general terms as any thing which I have seen in your columns in connection with this matter. Beyond doubt but few comparatively would have died if proper relief-works had been opened in the right time. That they were not, is a simple matter of fact—as to my own locality I know it—and to talk of people preferring to die at home of starvation sooner than work for even a life and death subsistence, is simply childish. But the official reports take no notice of these facts.

THE THAKORE SAHEB of Bhowanuggur has given a munificent donation of a lakh of rupees to his *Alma Mater*, the Kattywar Rajkoomar College, and has set apart fifteen thousand rupees, the amount of a *nazur* offered by his subjects on his installation, to the relief of the sufferers by the famine. These donations have been given in commemoration of his installation to the *Guddi*.

It is stated that Mr. Archibald Forbes, the *Daily News* correspondent of the late war, has been engaged to give 75 lectures in different parts of England during the next six months, for the sum of £2,500. This shews how lecturing pays in England.

THE INDIAN PAVILION of the Paris Exhibition bids fair to be "a thing of beauty and joy for ever." The wood-work will be carved and mounted with silver. It was at the personal solicitation of the Prince of Wales that the French officials consented to devote this imposing hall to the exhibition of Indian curiosities. The Pavilion is to be decorated with copies of the flags and banners used at the great ceremony at Delhi.

THURSDAY, 18TH APRIL.

WE ARE glad to observe that the *Englishman* is at one with us in condemning the action of Government in enforcing the Vernacular Press Act. Our contemporary writes:

We have supported the Vernacular Press Act from a strong sense of the magnitude of the evil against which it is directed, while condemning its form and the precipitancy with which it was passed into law. The case, however, is eminently one in which the greatest care in the application of the remedy is required, to prevent its proving worse than the disease. We have no doubt whatever that if the Act continues to be applied in the way in which it appears to have been applied in this case of the *Sahachar*, the remedy will prove worse than the disease. Justice, prudence, and the very intention with which we believe that Act to have been passed, combine to require that whenever any of its provisions are put in force, some specific reason should be assigned for the proceeding.

As regards the effect it is likely to have on public opinion, both here and in England, the action taken in this case seems to us most unfortunate. If the Government would avoid condemnation, it is above all things necessary that it should keep itself free from the suspicion of desiring to suppress discussion under the name of sedition. But if it works in the dark and refuses to disclose the reasons of its proceedings under the Act, it will certainly incur this suspicion; and the belief that it is distrustful of itself and its policy will naturally follow.

A CORRESPONDENT complains that the authorities of the Benares College are withholding since 1874 the medal granted by His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagram under a restrictive rule that no student shall get it who does not pass the F. A. Examination in the first division. The intention of the donor was that it should be given to the first student of the school. The medal has been awarded to only three students since its creation, and no one has been deemed worthy of the scholarship. He beseeches the Maharaja to interfere by expressing his views.

MR. HENRY, late Resident at Nipal, had before his departure an interview with the Maharaja and Minister of that State. The Maharaja Dhiraj spoke

in terms of the most cordial friendship towards the British Government and referred with pride to the services performed by his general in the war of the Mutinies. The Prime Minister also laid stress on the friendliness of His Excellency's policy and intentions.

THE LATEST REPORT from the Governor General's Agent in Beluchistan shows that large quantities of supplies and fodder have been pouring into the British quarters at Quetta from the neighbouring villages of the Amir of Kabul's territory. It is publicly rumoured there that the Amir's officials, when speaking to the people and headmen of the Amir's border villages, warn them not to molest British officers in any way as their presence there has His Highness's full approval and is a strength and support to himself and a security to his trade, &c. We are really glad to record this.

REPORTS FROM the Bolan Pass dating from the 14th to the 31st December show that 103 caravans, numbering 1,445 camels, 53 ponies, and 600 donkeys, valued at Rs. 2,41,814 passed through the Bolan Pass. Rs. 4,534 were realised on account of Customs dues, and Rs. 1,248 on account of escort fees. The total value of the Caravans passed through the Bolan, and the total amount realised on account of Customs dues and escort fees, from the 1st January to 31st December 1877 are as follows:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Value of Caravans	13,68,648	11	0
Customs dues	34,945	8	0
Escort fees	10,579	3	0
Camels	8,815	0	0
Ponies	3,548	0	0
Donkeys	4,644	0	0

During the week ending 20th February 1878 supplies of all sorts, wheat, flour, Indian corn, barley, &c., have been pouring in from Peshin and other villages in the Amir's territory in the neighbourhood of Quetta. This is believed at Quetta to be the strongest proof that could be adduced that the Amir and his officials are becoming reconciled to the presence of British troops there.

WE ARE INFORMED that the Secretary of State has sanctioned the creation of a new appointment of Superintendent of Printing in Bengal, and the abolition of the appointment of the Superintendent of the Bengal Secretariat Press. The arrangement will effect considerable saving.

THE REPORT on the administration of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department for 1876 shows that the Department had been doing good work, and that its relations with the political authorities had improved. Owing to the operations of the Department, being confined to native states, and the returns being to a great extent framed on information derived from Durbars, the character of the information is not always satisfactory. A fact mentioned by Major Bradford is given as an instance of this:—namely, that of 299 criminals apprehended, 58 were convicted, 2 made their escape and 15 were released. Of the disposal of the remaining prisoners, (i.e. 224) no information has been furnished to the Department, 240 dacoities were exhibited in the return of crime against 183 in 1872. The increase arose from the Nizam's Government having for the first time furnished reports. The property stolen amounted to Rs. 1,12,482 of which only Rs. 3,273 was recovered. The number of Thuggee cases arising from the administration of poisonous drugs fell from 11 to 9, and the number of persons convicted of such administration increased from 1 to 7. The number of dacoits arrested was 143, including 4 dhatura poisoners against 108 in 1875. 327 dacoits were registered as professional criminals, and evidence had been obtained against 480 other persons who would be subject to prosecution in the event of more conclusive evidence against them. On the whole the Secretary of State seems to regard the work of the Department during the year under review as fairly satisfactory.

WE UNDERSTAND that the authorities of the British Museum have, on reconsideration, withdrawn an offer they made, sometime ago, for the purchase of all Indian publications, the Trustees not being prepared to incur the expenditure involved in an agreement to acquire by purchase copies of all works and newspapers published in India. Subsequently an arrangement seems to have been made for supplying the Museum authorities with copy of the "Quarterly Catalogue" which goes to the India Office, by which means such works published in India as may be considered to be suitable acquisitions for the national library may be selected.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Secretary of State has approved of the orders passed by the Government of India on the subject of the Cadastral Survey of the permanently settled districts of the North Western Provinces. Those orders modify former orders on the subject, and it is now decided that the survey

shall proceed, but that Act XII of 1873 (about which a doubt was entertained as to the legality of defraying the cost of the Survey from the Patwari rate leviable under that Act) shall be so amended as to admit of the expenditure of the Patwari rate, on the preparation of the village maps.

FRIDAY 19TH APRIL.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Government of India anticipate that the gross receipts of the Forest Department for 1877-78 will aggregate Rs. 65,52,500 and the expenditure Rs. 45,67,350 leaving a net balance for the year in favor of the State of Rs. 19,85,150.

COMMENTING on the annual returns of Trade in Sindh, the Secretary of State asks whether any system has been subsequently established, or is contemplated, for registering the export trade of the province, without which the statistics can be of very little value. The Deputy Collector of Kurrachee thinks that such registration should be conducted at Stations a little distance out of the towns where the roads and paths meet, or at convenient stations near the frontier.

HER MAJESTY'S Consul at Cayenne towards the end of 1877 sent in a report on the mortality among Indian emigrants in French Guiana. In this report Mr. Woolridge, the Consul points out the very high death-rate which was no less than 5.5 per cent for the first half of 1877 or 11 per cent for the year among the newly arrived emigrants, while the general death-rate among the emigrants was 4.13 per cent. for the six months. He arrives at the following conclusions:

"The administration is powerless to render the coolies position a safe one in this climate in point of health, or a satisfactory one as justice demands; for complaints of beating, stoppage of wages, improper feeding, and others, although attended to by the authorities are ever recurring at the Consulate. Many of these complaints are satisfactorily settled and the coolie departs for his place or estate justice having been rendered to him and his salary paid up, but only to re-appear a few months later with a similar complaint. Over eighty complaints passed through my office during the first half of 1877; some of the most serious ones were decided by the law; and I invariably remarked that most of the coolies complaints were declared to be unfounded.

The Government of India ought to interfere.

WHILE THE *Pioneer* rejoices at the practical suppression of the *Sahachar* its Calcutta Correspondent says, "the *Sahachar* has set an example which, if followed, would render the working of the Vernacular Press Act impossible, unless the Government is prepared to suppress every native journal in the country. Indeed, it would seem as if the future of Native Press was to be a mere question of police. It is difficult to believe that such a step was ever contemplated by the Viceroy in Council."

THE LATE RAINS have done great good to the country. A Meherpore Correspondent thus writes to us under date the 18th instant:

"We had rain here last Friday evening and Saturday morning enough to enable cultivation to progress favorably—and even to admit of the low rice lands being sown down in places. To the South and East heavy rain fell. I hope this rain has been more or less general all over lower Bengal. It was much wanted both for man and beast, none having fallen hereabout to signify since last October.

There was a tremendous hailstorm in and around Calcutta on Monday last.

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL.

THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT has invited the owners and agents of steamers and sailing ships in the harbour to submit tenders of such vessels as are available if needed, for the transport of troops. Tenders are also invited for certain commissariat supplies;—if such should be needed. Orders have been given to recall the men on furlough belonging to the 1st Bombay Light Cavalry, the 9th Bombay Infantry, and the Bombay Sappers and Miners; also to complete the strength of these corps. Water-tanks are being made up in large numbers for Government. Hay is also being compressed; and stables and pack-saddles prepared.

MAJOR GENERAL J. ROSS C. B. commands troops proceeding to Malta. Brigadier General H. T. Macpherson C. B. V. C. commands Second Infantry Brigade. Colonel J. Watson C. B. V. C. commands Cavalry. Colonel Harry Prendergast V. C. commands Sappers and Miners. Captain S. A. Barrow Tenth Bengal Lancers, Brigade Major of Cavalry.

THE HINDU COMMUNITY of Madras intend to erect a column opposite the Triplicane pagoda, "containing representations on stone of the British Lion. Her Imperial Majesty, the Empress of India, and the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, together with a few representations of famished paupers, in memory, not of the Madras famine, 1877, but of the voluntary and generous relief afforded by both the British Government and nation during its continuance."

THERE WERE 351 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 13th April, of which 86 were from small-pox, 81 from cholera, 77 from fever, 38 from diarrhoea and dysentery, and the rest from other causes. Of the 81 cases of cholera and 86 of small-pox only two of the former and one of the latter occurred among non-Asiatics.

MR. H. A. COCKERELL has been confirmed as Secretary to the Bengal Government.

THE APPEAL of the Raja of Pooree has been admitted by the High Court and will be heard on the 29th instant.

THE REFERENCE in the Lokenathpore case was heard on Wednesday last by a Bench of the High Court consisting of Justices Markby and Prinsep. Their Lordships reserved their decision.

WE ARE informed that Lieutenant Colonel Tweedie has been appointed to officiate for Colonel Watson at Gwalior.

WE UNDERSTAND that on the recommendation of Lord Salisbury immediately before leaving the India Office, Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to nominate Sir John Strachey a Grand Commander of the Star of India.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE learns that "a petition has been submitted to the Government of India by certain inhabitants of Bikaner praying for the annexation of that territory. The petitioners base their prayer on an allegation that the state of the country is verging on anarchy, and that a body of the Raja's troops, deputed to levy certain dues claimed by the Raja from the zemindars of Mahesur, some time since, entered the village in question and killed nine persons, including the zemindars themselves and three of their women, besides wounding fifteen others all of whom are mentioned by name in the petition."

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

Constantinople, 14th April.—It is rumoured that the Porte is arranging to transfer the Government to Soutar in case of war. The Russians have requested the Turks to hasten the evacuation of Shumla and Varua. The main body of the Russian army at Erzeroum is marching on Batoum, where it embarks. The Russians are treating Roumania as a conquered country.

15th.—The Porte has ordered the Commander of the Turkish Troops to resist any attempt at the occupation of Constantinople. The Porte has refused to sanction the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

18th.—The Sultan has dismissed Vefik Pacha who is friendly to England and appointed Sadyk Pacha premier, Suftet Pacha Minister of foreign affairs, and Izzet Pacha Minister of War.

19th.—The Porte has sent a note to the Grand Duke Nicholas in answer to his request for the speedy evacuation of Shumla and Varua by the Turkish troops. The Porte promises to give up Varua, Shumla, and Batoum in proportion as the Russian troops evacuate non-Bulgarian territory.

Bucharest, 19th April.—The Roumanian troops are continually moving Northwards and concentrating at positions strategically important.

Paris, 19th April.—The Journal Des Debats bitterly condemns the foreign policy of the German Government and discredits the sincerity of its mediation.

Belgrade, 14th April.—The Serbian army is being disbanded. Washington, 14th April.—The United States Government has recognised the Mexican Government under the presidency of Senor Diaz.

Bombay, 18th April, 12h. 22m.—The Times of India's "Special" says that the news of the Indian Expedition excited surprise at home. The Government are blamed for the disclosure, simultaneously with Sir Stafford Northcote's announcement that he hopes for a peaceful settlement. Probably, Egypt is the real object of this expedition.

St. Petersburg, 17th April.—It is semi-officially stated that negotiations between Germany, England, and Russia are proceeding satisfactorily.

18th.—The Czar has sent General Todleben on a special mission to San Stefano—object unknown.

Bucharest, 17th April.—The Roumanian army is moving towards the Carpathians, in order to avoid possible disarmament and collision with the Russian troops.

London, 15th April.—The latest news by the Cape Mail states that the fighting in the Transvaal is continuous, and that the situation is serious.

15th.—The situation is becoming less hopeful, as the anti-English tone and popular feeling against England is increasing in Russia.

16th.—Her Majesty, in reply to the address to the Crown in reference to calling out the Reserves, thanks Parliament for its loyalty, and says she is sure she can always rely on the Commons for honor to the Crown, and upholding the stability of the Empire. Major and Mrs. Lespange, Reverend Mr. and Mrs. Nesfield, besides seven of the crew, are known to have been saved from the wreck of the Childwall Hall; it is believed, however, that all on board have been saved.

16th.—The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople has renewed his proposals for an Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is reported that Russia has consented to the requisite modification of the treaty concluded at San Stefano, in case the Porte accepts the Austrian proposals. D. M.'s Transport Malabar arrived at Portsmouth yesterday.

16th.—Sir Stafford Northcote stated in the Commons to-night that the situation certainly causes anxiety, but that nothing had been done to aggravate it, nor had anything occurred to diminish the hope of an amicable arrangement; he expected another circular from the Porte. Sir Stafford Northcote further stated that the assertion that England was isolated was unjustified. Concerning Greece, he entertained great hopes of friendly arrangement relative to Thessaly and Epirus, through the good offices of England. The Colonial Minister announced the latest news from South Africa was less alarming. The Post Master-General stated that the question of the conveyance of the Indian mails, after the termination of the existing contract, was under consideration.

17th.—The Lords have adjourned until the 13th May; the Commons until the 6th. The masters in the Manchester district have refused an offer of the cotton spinners to accept a five, instead of ten, per cent. reduction. 40,000 of them consequent-

ly strike to-morrow, and a strike is imminent throughout Lancashire, affecting 180,000.

18th.—English Journals of all opinions except the Daily News unite in approving of the despatch of Indian troops as a proper precautionary measure.

19th.—A royal proclamation prohibits the export of torpedoes, and all apparatus connected therewith. The total of lives lost in the Childwall Hall is fifteen including the Reverend Mr. Horsfall, Miss Hammond, Charles Wainright and Mrs. Nesfield's infant, passengers, besides the Captain and first and third officers.

19th.—Negotiations between England, Germany and Russia now centre in Berlin, the prospects of German mediation being successful are considered hopeful. A conference of Ambassadors is expected to be held at Berlin to draught an invitation to a European congress which shall meet in principle England's demand regarding peace conditions, at the same time consulting the feelings of Russia.

21st.—The Continental papers state that England and Russia have adhered to the proposal of Germany for a simultaneous withdrawal of the British Iron-clad Squadron and the Russian Army from Constantinople, in order to facilitate the meeting of the European Congress. The Russian Press is silent concerning the despatch of troops.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Bhavabhuti and his place in Sanskrit Literature, by Annandram Barooah, B. A. O. S. 2. Catalogue of Printing Machinery, Presses, Types &c. for sale by Mr. Erasmus Jones, at 5 British Indian Street. 3. Madras Famine Report No. 25. 4. Maps showing the new boundaries under the preliminary treaty of peace between Russia and Turkey signed at San Stefano. 5. Drabarthya Chundrika or a description of the drugs mentioned in the Ayurveda, by Siddhessur Sen Kabiraj.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendralal Sircar to-morrow Evening at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Chemical Origin of Voltaic Electricity.

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S.J., on Thursday, the 25th Inst., at 7 P.M.

Subject: Balloons.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on Saturday the 27th Inst. next, at 4 P. M.

Subject: Hydrogen.

The Hindoo Patriot.

✓ MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1878.

THE MEETING AGAINST THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT.

FOR many years past Calcutta had not seen such a crowded and enthusiastic meeting as was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday last. From three to four thousand persons were present, and the meeting lasted for about four hours. We are glad to note that the tone of the meeting was thoroughly loyal. We give the Resolutions below :

Resolution I.—That of the manifold blessings which have been conferred by the English nation and the English Government, on the people of this country, they have esteemed the freedom of the Press as one of the greatest, as it has been of immeasurable service in helping the cause of their intellectual, moral and political progress. This meeting therefore deeply deprecates the withdrawal of this inestimable boon, so far as a most important section of the Press is concerned, by the passing of the Vernacular Press Act, and desires to place on record its deliberate opinion, that the Act is calculated to restrain the legitimate freedom of discussion which the Vernacular Press had up to this time enjoyed, and by shutting up the natural outlet of popular opinion and feeling to produce the very evils of popular discontent and dissatisfaction which it is intended to prevent, to arrest the development of Oriental Literature and to deal a serious blow to the cause of native progress and of good government in India.

Proposed by the Revd. K. S. Macdonald.

Seconded by Baboo Rasbehari Ghose.

Resolution II.—That having regard to the devoted loyalty and attachment of the people of India to the British Crown, to which willing and ungrudging testimony has from time to time been borne by many high and distinguished authorities both here and in England, to the peace and contentment that reign throughout the country, this meeting desires to record its emphatic opinion that a repressive and retrograde measure like the Vernacular Press Act is unnecessary and uncalled for, and is opposed to the interests of justice as it altogether dispenses with the usual safe-guards of judicial investigation, and substitutes in their place the discretionary authority of executive officers.

Proposed by Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee.

Seconded by Mr. H. R. Fink.

Resolution III.—That this meeting deeply regrets the undue and unnecessary haste with which the measure was carried through the Supreme Council, the bill having been introduced and become law at one and same sitting, the public having been thereby denied the opportunity of discussing the provisions of a law affecting so vitally the interests of the native populations of India.

Proposed by Baboo Bhoirub Chundra Banerjee.

Seconded by Baboo Kanti Churn Banerjee.

Resolution IV.—That the following gentlemen form themselves into a Committee with power to add to their number, with a view to frame a Memorial based upon the resolutions which have just been adopted, for presentation to the House of Commons, to obtain signatures thereto, and to take such other steps as may be deemed necessary for transmitting it to Parliament, and also to publish, in English, translations in extenso of those articles in the vernacular papers on which the Vernacular Press Act is supposed to be founded, and to take such other measures as may be thought advisable, for the purpose of laying before the English public a correct representation of the state and character of the Vernacular Press:—

Revd. K. M. Banerjee T. Paulit Esq. Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose, Revd. K. S. Macdonald, Baboo Digendra Nath Tagore, Baboo Jogesh Chundra Dutta, Baboo Rash Behery Ghose, Baboo Bhoirub Chundra Banerjee, Baboo Probodh Chundra Mullik, Baboo Netya Lal Mullik, Dr. Guru Dass Banerjee, Baboo Nobogopal Mittra, Baboo Kally Nath Mittra, and A. M. Bose Esq.

Proposed by Baboo Digendra Nath Tagore.

Seconded by Baboo Probodh Chundra Mullik.

V.—That this meeting feels deeply grateful to those Hon'ble Members of Parliament who, on behalf of the unrepresented millions of India, have already lent their powerful aid in the discussion of the policy and merits of the Vernacular Press Act in the House of Commons; and that the Right Hon'ble W. E. Gladstone whose earnest and eloquent advocacy of the cause of suffering humanity, of progressive civilization and freedom of speech, has made his name dear to all lovers of progress, be respectfully solicited to present the petition to Parliament.

Proposed by Baboo Jogesh Chundra Dutt.

Seconded by Baboo Nobogopal Mittra.

The Resolutions correctly represent the native feeling on the subject. Indeed, from one end of the country to the other there is but one feeling regarding it. Not that really good and sensible people sympathize with the rabid Vernacular papers—happily their number is not large—on the contrary they condemn these papers as much as any Englishman—but they are convinced that nothing that these papers may write can do harm to Government. The British Government in India stands on a rock, from which the murmuring eddies of Vernacular journalism cannot dislodge it. Time and education are the best curers of the evils, with which the Vernacular Press is charged. Young men fresh from the school want ballast, but as they grow in years and settle in life, they will learn the world better and realize their responsibilities more vividly. To cut the tongue of the whole Vernacular Press for the sake of a few wild young men is neither just nor statesmanlike. Indeed to do so is to lay the axe at the root of national progress and regeneration, and it is this feeling, which leads the nation to regard the new Act with dismay, distrust and regret.

The Vernacular Press is yet in its infancy. It is the product of Western civilization in the East. It is the Anglo-Vernacular education imparted by the British Government, which has qualified the Indian to understand, examine, and appreciate its policy, measures and motives, to criticise them, to expound them to the people, and to represent to Government the opinions and feelings, wants and wishes of the latter. The Vernacular Press thus performs a most important function. It is true that it is yet far behind the English Press in intelligence, but it is daily improving, and as years will roll on this improvement will increase. Compare the Vernacular Press of to-day with what it was a quarter of a century ago, and its worst enemy will doubtless admit that it has decidedly improved in intelligence and ability. It labors under great disadvantages. In the first place the reading public in India is very limited. The mass of the people cannot read, and those among them, who can or do read, do not care for the newspaper, for as yet they are not able to realize the usefulness and importance of a newspaper press. In not a few cases the Vernacular paper is a losing game, and those who at so much self-sacrifice undertake the noble task of giving a tongue to their countrymen deserve sympathy and encouragement, and not censure or repression. In the second place the conductor of a Vernacular paper has not the same access to information that his English brother has. In the third place as he justly considers it his duty to expose maladministration and abuse of power, he naturally creates enemies in influential quarters, and he is therefore in perpetual dread of official wrath. In the fourth place he writes in a language, which the rulers of the country do not sufficiently understand, and his motives are frequently liable to be misunderstood and misinterpreted. A scrap here and a scrap there make up the stock of official knowledge of the contents of Vernacular papers, and from this imperfect

knowledge the ruling authorities make wholesale generalizations. And lastly the stand-points between the rulers and the ruled being different, there is no sympathy or harmony between them, and to this absence of sympathy is due the misunderstandings and misconceptions, which subsist between them. Such are the difficulties under which Vernacular journalism labors in this country. The true statesman, however, fully appreciates these difficulties. It was Lord Canning, who first recognized the importance of the Vernacular Press as an auxiliary to the cause of progress and good government in this country, and ordered the translations of the contents of the Vernacular papers. Lord Lawrence extended the sphere of the usefulness of the Vernacular Press by taking notice of its writings. Lord Mayo gave it due encouragement by openly declaring that the Government did not fear, but courted criticisms of its measures. It cannot therefore be too strongly regretted that the present Government should have taken a different view of the utility, influence, and character of the Vernacular Press, and passed a law, which cannot but tend to the suppression of all free discussion. The way in which the Act has been enforced shews that it cannot but have that pernicious tendency. The new Act as we have shewn in previous issues is not only aimed at the newspaper press, but against oriental literature generally. What could be a greater blow to the cause of national progress and regeneration than this repressive measure?

It is these considerations, which have led the people to protest against the Vernacular Press Act. They enter this protest in all loyalty, humility, and sincerity. They look upon the Act as a slur upon the loyalty of the nation, and they said so at the Town Hall meeting on Wednesday last. They consider it a retrograde measure, and they said so at that meeting. We hope the demonstration made in Calcutta will be followed up in other parts of the country. Let England know that India speaks in one voice on this national question. It may be that the majority, which the Ministry command in the House of Commons, may defeat the prayer of the petitioners, but if the Liberal party, headed by Mr. Gladstone, support it, if men like Mr. Bright, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Forster, and others lend the weight of their voice to India's cry, the minority will not be insignificant. The Government may carry the day in the House; but it may see good reasons to repeal or amend the Act. India's hope rests with the House of Commons. Last Wednesday's meeting, supplemented as we hope it will be, by similar meetings in other parts of the country, cannot we feel convinced fail to move the generous sympathies of the English nation. Freedom of speech is the key-stone of the British constitution, and the birth-right of the British subject wherever placed, and will not true-born Britons defend it when it is assailed in India? We have ample confidence that they will.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

It is a relief to us to see that all English journals do not support the Vernacular Press Act. We quoted last week the ringing sentences of the *Spectator*. The *Daily News*, the organ of the Liberals, is not less strong. It writes as follows:

In one day a Bill to destroy the independence of the vernacular Press was introduced into the Council of the Governor-General of India without notice, and was passed hurriedly through all its stages by suspending the standing orders at a single sitting. Before the ink on the paper was dry, the new law was at once applied to Bombay, Bengal, the North-west Provinces, Oude, and the Punjab. The law does not affect the newspapers printed in the English language, although by the natives; but it enacts in substance that independent journalism must henceforth be concealed from our fellow-subjects in India in an unknown tongue.

Lord Lytton, of course, has the ordinary plea of the tyrant—the safety of the State is the supreme law. It is a plea that Englishmen at home must accept very much on trust. If the Government of India say that they are in deadly peril, and that by gagging the Press the peril would be removed, the House of Commons will be placed in a great difficulty. The extreme advocate of a free Press must admit that there are moments of national danger and of imminent insurrection where abnormal powers must be entrusted to the Executive; but surely that is not the present condition of India. The new Press-gag will probably prove ineffectual. The natives are masters of the arts of secrecy, and, by sending lithographed newsletters instead of news-

papers enclosed in envelopes they will be able to defy the new regulation and laugh at the clumsy tyranny of the magistrate. The law, bad in itself, will be all the worse when it is systematically defied. The Government will be despised for its feebleness even more than it will be hated for its injustice. To prove their strength, they are very likely to be tempted into further measures of repression. They cannot stop where they are.

The Echo says:

India has fermented with rebellion many times before the press was introduced into the country, or before the Press was invented; and the suppression of papers in that land will not extinguish the seeds of discontent or the spirit of alienation. It is possible that a stringent interference with the press there may cause these seeds to germinate unseen and in silence, and thus increase their explosive effect. It is better that we should know what is simmering below the surface in India, and this absolute interference with the publication of native opinion may increase instead of diminish the danger. It is said that the knowledge of the disease is half the cure; but if the disease is not permitted to show itself on the skin how can the doctor prescribe for the patient?

The *Illustrated London News* has the following remarks:

Of course in a Dependency like that of our Indian Empire teeming with populations of various Races, one can very well understand the wisdom of taking special precautions against the seditious manufacture of discontent. But the Act passed by the Council is, if anything more, extraordinary in the circumstances which characterised its legislation than the substance of the legislation itself. It comes under notice as might a thunder-bolt from a blue sky, they who are responsible to the Parliament at Home for a correct exposition of affairs in the East have hitherto represented the condition of Her Majesty's Indian subjects as, politically at least, highly commendatory of the Viceroy's rule. No doubt was permitted to prevail in the mind of the English people as to the loyalty of the people at large. There might be difficulties of a financial as well as of a physical kind. But it was always assumed that the political temper and disposition of the people were in suitable response to the wise and disinterested rule to which, for many years past,—indeed ever since the sepoy mutiny they have been subjected. It is impossible not to be struck with the contrast presented by recent official statements on this matter and the suddenness and severity of the measure just enacted for the regulation of the Vernacular Press. It seems to indicate either an abrupt change in the sentiments of the people or an equally abrupt change in the policy of the Government. Prior to the arrival of further and fuller evidence upon either of these points we are hardly justified in accepting any decisive conclusion upon the matter.

Be this, however, as it may, and whatever may be the judgment which a correct representation of the facts may necessitate, the affair is one which it is impossible for Englishmen to look upon without the most painful regret. To most of them the necessity of the measure, however strongly proved will be a revelation of comparative failure for which they were totally unprepared. There was room, it is true, for surmising that between the governing and governed classes in India there could not but be some considerable difference of sentiment. No country prefers to be ruled by Foreigners, and between the East and West there is so little genuine sympathy, so little that is common to both in social customs, religions, prejudices and habits of thought, that no one has a right to be astonished if even the most considerate and beneficent rule should have failed of eliciting an ardently loyal response. But a population greedy of seditious allment, acutely susceptible to utterances tending to throw contempt upon their rulers, and eager to listen to any mischievous stories which political malevolence can invent is, if it really exist a state of things hardly to be contemplated without humiliating emotions. It was hoped that education, justice and kindness were rapidly raising the myriads of India above this condition. Experience has proved to the observing that much yet remained to be done, but hope was confidently cherished that things in this respect were yearly getting better. Are we to surrender the idea as too self-complacent and flattering? Are we to adopt the conclusion that progress is being made in an opposite direction? Does enlightenment call for severer repression than stolid ignorance, or does our tenure of India depend upon measures aimed at obstructing the circulation of free thought?

It will occur to most thoughtful people that the means resorted to by the late Act may prove in India, as they have frequently proved elsewhere, worse than inefficient for the purpose had in view. If there be a spirit of disloyalty among the people, repressive measures will only tend to drive it underground the surface. We shall see less of it, but it will become more intense. Newspapers may be put down, but less open and legitimate modes of diffusing thought will be substituted for them. As in America, during the time of slavery, there was an "underground railway" so there is danger lest in India disloyal minds may propagate their disloyalty by methods invisible and undetectable to official penetration. And the evil is that when the means of repression already sanctioned are found to fail of their effect, other and sterner means are likely to be resorted to. Thus the character of the British Government in India would tend to become deteriorated. Despotism would be less tempered than it is now by noble aims and conscientious sense of responsibility, and almost insensibly and inevitably the last state of India would become worse than the first."

The Home News says:

The new Indian Press Law has been received as a surprise in England. We had been accustomed from time to time to hear complaints of the proneness of Native journalists to abuse that freedom of public utterance which Sir Charles Metcalfe forty-three years ago secured for the whole Press of India. But it was not generally anticipated that the step which has been taken by the Indian Government for the purpose of arresting the evils said to have sprung out of the charter conceded in 1835, would have been so suddenly

adopted. To destroy in a few hours a system which has worked well for so many years, with the approval or the tolerance of successive Viceroys, was a measure which could only be justified by reasons of the highest and clearest urgency. If some great and imminent peril has rendered the drastic policy inevitable, no one can say a word against it. We may wonder in silence at the sudden revelation of a new danger for whose approach no reader of the stock official utterances could have been prepared; but those who are in the secret may be trusted, one would act to think, with a vigour worthy of the crisis.

When Lord Canning muzzled the whole Press of India in 1857, he had the excuse of dealing with a widespread mutiny and a threatened rebellion. In the present instance we have heard of neither. All we know is that the vernacular papers are charged with uttering seditious libels and slanderous statements against Native officials and gentlemen of rank; and various samples of seditious language are quoted in the telegrams to justify the repressive policy of the Government. If these are fair specimens of the plague of unlicensed printing as prevalent in India, we can only wonder at the greatness of the disturbance which they seem to have caused. No one whose mind was clear of Russophobia would have given a second thought to expressions of feeling which serve only to remind us of the difference between a self-governed country and a country ruled by foreigners. If Native journalists say nothing worse of us than what we find in these extracts, the wisdom may be questioned of interfering with their freedom of speech. What particular crime is there in accusing the English of dragging India into the mire and reducing her to poverty, or in railing at the apathy and greed of foreign rulers professing a different faith, or in taxing us with cowardice for our conduct in the recent war? Language of this sort has not seldom been heard among ourselves, and sensible people take it for what it is worth. Nor is there anything very heinous, however absurd, in the statement that Nana Sahib, aided by a Russian army, is going to invade India and re-establish the dominion of the Peshwah. And what sober person can scent sedition in the complaint that Englishmen are mostly "selfish, rough-tempered, mean-spirited, and hostile to Natives?"

We stated last week how the Act was begun to be enforced in Bengal. Some of the Mofussil papers have been served with notices to execute bail-bonds; the only mercy shewn is that the money deposit will be remitted. We give below the letter, which the Government of Bengal has addressed to the Commissioner of Dacca:

No. 1562

From Colman Macaulay Esq. Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal Judicial, Political and Appointment Department.—To the Commissioner of the Dacca Division Dated Calcutta 28th March 1878.

JUDICIAL.
Sir.—The provisions of the Press Act (IX of 1878) having by a notification of the Government of India, dated the 4th instant published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 20th idem been extended to the territories under the administration of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, I am directed to request that you will instruct the Magistrates of Dacca and Mymensingh to call upon the printer and publisher of each of the newspapers named in the accompanying statement to enter into a bond jointly and severally binding themselves or when the same person is printer and publisher then himself, in the sum of Rs. 500 for the purposes specified in section 3 of the Act.

2. The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal does not consider it necessary for the present to insist upon deposits being made under section 4.

3. You will be good enough to report for Mr. Eden's information the proceedings taken by the Magistrates concerned under these orders.

I have the honor to be Sir, your most obedient servant.

(Sd.) COLMAN MACAULAY,
Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

It will be seen from the above that the initiative has been taken by the Government. But this we submit is opposed to the provisions of the law. Section 3 of Act IX. of 1878 distinctly declares that "the Magistrate of a District or Commissioner of Police, may, with the previous sanction of the local Government," call upon the printer and publisher of a vernacular newspaper to enter into a joint and several bond. Thus the legislature intended that the initiative should be taken by the Magistrate or Commissioner of Police, but in Bengal the Government has reversed the position. This precipitate action on the part of Government has naturally enough roused suspicion as to its motive for interference. In the meantime persons, who owe personal grudge against particular papers, have, we hear, found a new incentive to gratify their spite, and intrigues are going on. Thus the Vernacular Press Act will be a new engine of demoralization. The Holkar, it is stated, has sentenced the editor of the *Mahwar Akbar*, a paper published at Indore, to three months' rigorous imprisonment for pub-

lishing the obnoxious article noticed in the Council. So the baneful influence of the new Act bids fair to extend to the Native States!

We do not know what the other local Governments intend to do with a view to enforce the new Act in their respective territories. The Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces, it would seem, has been considerate and discriminating. According to the *Delhi Gazette* a circular has been issued to all Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners, requesting them to invite the attention of editors, printers, and publishers of Vernacular newspapers and periodicals to the provisions of the law, and to inform them that the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner trusts that they will conduct their papers in such a spirit that it will not in any case be necessary to take action under the law. The circular at the same time points out that it is part of the duty of Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners to keep themselves fully cognizant of the tone of the Vernacular papers, &c., published in their respective districts, and at once to bring to the notice of the Government, through the Commissioner of the division, any cases in which editors, printers, or publishers may appear to them to have made themselves amenable to the provisions of section 3 of the Act. So far so good. For our part the local Governments would have done well if they had invited the editors of the Vernacular papers and explained to them the object of the new law, and advised them to abstain from writings, which would render them liable to its provisions. We are of opinion that such moral persuasion would have been dignified and statesmanlike, and placed the motives of Government clearly before the public.

TWO ANGLO-INDIANS ON THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

Two well-known Anglo-Indians have written to the London papers on the subject of the Vernacular Press Act. They have taken a fair and generous view of the whole question, such as was expected from them from their knowledge of the state of native feeling in this country. We give a prominent insertion to their letters. Mr. Routledge writes to us as follows:

THE NEW PRESS LAW.

THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

DEAR SIR,—A letter which I shall append here was published for me some days ago by the *Daily News*, and I venture to submit it to my friends in India, if you will kindly re-publish it, as a frank, open and unflinching means of meeting the new, and, as I believe most dangerous proposals of the Viceroy's Council.

I also sent copies of the letter in manuscript to Lord Salisbury, Sir Geo. Balfour, General Cavanagh, Mr. Stansfield, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Whitwell, Mr. Bright, and other members of the House of Commons. I could do so freely, because I took care to make it clear that I am no-body's agent, and that I expressed merely my own view. If my opinion has any weight with the Editors of the Vernacular papers, and some of them I know are my friends, I would counsel extreme caution, but extreme firmness. I would not in their place write an ill-considered word, or a word that in England would be deemed disloyal. I would, simply, modestly, and in such words as India never fails to find in a just cause, appeal to the honour of the free life of England in favour of the great safeguard of England's liberties, a free press. Let the Government try some one paper by law; the law surely can reach treason. Do not let them put down any paper on the mere opinion of a District officer.

The following is my letter to the *Daily News*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY NEWS.

There cannot be a doubt that the new law enacted in India with respect to the Vernacular Press is one of the most serious steps taken by any Indian Government since the mutiny. That it will be allowed to pass unquestioned in the House of Commons seems impossible. Yet when the Governor-General and his Council say that the step is absolutely necessary to the safety of the Empire, it would be at least precipitate to veto, without inquiry, even the extraordinary powers demanded. For my own part I firmly believe that if district officers are empowered to deal with the Press according to the terms of this law they will disintegrate the Empire. I have known very fair criticism termed disaffection, and if an officer is to be the judge in his own case it would be difficult to say what absurdity might not be perpetrated. India, has, however, a great hope in the House of Commons. If the House would

appoint a small Committee of gentlemen known to India, and resolve that when any journal is suppressed the reasons for the suppression, and a full file of the paper for, say, a year, shall be forwarded to the Committee, by whom also the editor's own defence would be received, the law would answer all the objects sought for by the Governor-General in Council, and the chances of the newly-enacted power being abused would be small. An officer who would brave both the Council in India and the Council at Westminster would be chary in braving the House of Commons, unless he was thoroughly satisfied of the strength of his position on purely public grounds. This would preserve us from the dishonour of striking at an infant Press among a people who are craving for knowledge and whose craving it is our interest, as well as our duty, to foster and encourage. I am not saying one word against Lord Lytton, whose motives appear to be honourable, but I am sure that the law in any case, if allowed to stand, will need some other check than that of the Governor-General's Council.

Mr. John Dacosta has thus written to the *London Daily News*:

The Indian Press Law.—Mr. J. Dacosta, 16, Manson-place, writes to us under date March 20:—"The Press Law which has just been passed at Calcutta, enabling the authorities to gag the Vernacular Press, will doubtless dispel the dreams hitherto indulged in by many about the inestimable benefits by which our paternal Government won the affection of our Indian fellow-subjects. Few have taken the trouble to become acquainted with the actual condition of things in India, and are, therefore, aware that the financial difficulties of the Indian Government have, for a number of years, led it to impose taxation of a most oppressive kind; that vast tracts of land lie uncultivated in India, because the cultivators have been unable to satisfy the increasing demands of the collector; that the mass of the agricultural population in Madras, Bombay, and a great part of the North-Western provinces, harassed by the tax-gatherer, constantly threatened with new taxes, and most cruelly oppressed by a corrupt police, are well nigh driven to despair. In justification of the enactment, it is stated that fifteen hundred extracts from vernacular papers were translated and submitted to the Advocate General, who found that their publication fell under one or other of certain heads, such as seditious libel, calumnious attacks on the Government, accusations of robbery and oppression, and imputations of bad faith, injustice, and partiality. The state of things in India would therefore appear to be alarming. At the same time, there is every reason to doubt that the remedial measure which has been adopted will improve matters. In the course of the short debate which took place last night on the subject of the enactment in question Lord G. Hamilton read a passage from the Indian penal code showing that the Government already possessed full powers for dealing not only with cases of seditious libel, but with any attempt to excite dissatisfaction with the Government, and his Lordship stated that the new law had been passed because the Indian Government were anxious to mitigate the severity of the penal code while putting down the growth of seditious libel. But it must be borne in mind that the code only fixes the maximum amount of punishment that may be inflicted for seditious libel, and that the judge may mitigate its severity by making the sentence lighter according to the circumstances of the case, and that to leave the existing law inoperative and to resort to the extraordinary expedient of placing the Vernacular Press of the country under censorship, is not only to do a grievous wrong to the people; but also, by stifling the expression of popular feeling and opinion, to deprive the Government of the only safe guide it has for steering clear of surprises and danger. Some of the extracts read in the Legislative Council, in justification of the proposed law, run thus:—"It is as bad for a Government to oppress the people as it is for a shepherd to slaughter his flock, or for a cultivator to set fire to his crop." "The apathy of our rulers towards the sufferers arises from the fact that they are foreigners, professing a different creed. The Government loves the money more than the lives of its subjects." It is obviously an error to treat such writing as endeavours to goad the people into rebellion; they only reflect the popular feeling which already pervades the country; and a careful and impartial inquiry will show that the complaints, although made in exaggerated language, are by no means groundless. The new Press law may, in a measure, prevent the publication of similar writings; but it will certainly not lessen the intensity of the popular feeling expressed in them; while repression may add to the intensity of that feeling and induce its expression in other and more undesirable forms." *Daily News* 28 March 1878.

These letters we have reasons to believe have opened the eyes of distinguished M. Ps. to the real character of the Vernacular Press Act.

The Anglo-Indians are in the best position to enlighten the English public regarding Indian feeling to the British Government. We do hope that they will now rally round their Indian fellow-subjects and vindicate their loyalty.

THE INDIAN CONTINGENT.

WHILE the news from Europe seems to be of an assuring nature, preparations are going on for the despatch of an Indian contingent to Malta. We give elsewhere the details of the Indian contingent. "The news," says the writer of the Week in last *Saturday Evening's Englishman*, "has, I hear, called forth a most excellent display of loyal spirit on the part of the native army, for half the regiments in the army have already volunteered for foreign service, and more of them will probably follow suit. That the European officers of the Indian army have volunteered in large numbers goes, without saying, as the French phrase is, and I hear that the authorities at head-quarters at Simla have been overwhelmed with telegrams from applicants for appointments." *Apr*opos of the subject the *Civil and Military Gazette* says: "We are sure that the soldiers of the native regiments who have been ordered to Malta, will feel proud of the distinction given to them of being selected as the vanguard of the 'Eastern Contingent.' The 9th Cavalry won a bright name for themselves at Delhi and Lucknow, as 'Hodson's Horse,' a name that will not be tarnished on European soil. The 'Kholat-i-Ghilzies,' will be certain to add fresh honors to their colors if opportunity be given them, and they will find gallant rivals in the men of the 31st Punjab Infantry. The 'Prince of Wales's Own' Goorkhas go 'where glory waits them,' and we may be sure that the native regiments ordered from Bombay and Madras will in quarters and in the field prove themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them. We think that the Government of India has shewn great judgment in selecting regiments from each Presidency. The effect amongst the natives of the whole of India will be an excellent one." "To those croakers at home who have joined in the cry that India is an expensive and useless encumbrance to England, this movement of an Indian Contingent to add to the strength of the English army is a splendid rebuff. It will, we hope, open the eyes of all our countrymen at home, to the grand power which England possesses while she holds India, and the fellowship in arms between Native and British soldiers on European ground will, we trust, make stronger the bonds of native loyalty to British rule here." We say—*amen!* There is we hear quite an enthusiasm among the Native Troops on the subject. The question is whether a similar opportunity should not be given to the native princes and chiefs to display their loyalty to the Paramount Power. In a recent issue we urged it as the duty of India to assist England in this crisis. The *Civil and Military Gazette* says: "There is one question, however, which we think, will call forth some suggestions in several quarters, and that is, whether the loyalty of some of the Independent Chiefs will not induce them to volunteer the services of a part of their armies, should a larger native contingent be required. The fiery Scindia would possibly welcome the opportunity which would allow him to place a squadron in the field and the division of a battle know. It is likely enough, however, that the Government requires no hint upon this subject." Yes, the Government requires no hint upon this subject, but we do hope that this splendid opportunity will not be thrown away either by our Government or by the Native Princes. The Scindia has become an Honorary General in the British army, and His Highness, we make no doubt, be proud to lead a contingent of his our troops on the battle-field in Europe. Such an opportunity has never occurred to the Princes of India. If the Native Princes be allowed to volunteer, they may raise no less than 10 lacs of men, and these will make no mean soldiers. The Rajputana Chiefs can among themselves raise some lacs of men. These men are born soldiers; it is true that they know not British discipline, but with the spirit they possess it will not take the British officers long to train them up. They have an undying love of glory, and devoid of an oppor-

tunity at home, they will be only too glad to avail themselves of it abroad. Some of the Native Princes, if we do not read their characters amiss, will take a personal pride in leading their men in quest of glory. His Highness the Scindia has already been named; there are other chiefs who do not yield their palm to him in martial spirit, and they will we believe be too glad to follow his example. One thing is plain. Whether a war between England and Russia actually breaks out or not, the moral effect of the proffer of their services by the Native regiments and the Native Princes upon the European mind cannot but be good. It will show that notwithstanding sinister rumours and the short-sighted policy of the Government of India in putting the Vernacular Press in fetters, the heart of India is attached to the British Crown, that the Princes and people of India wish victory to British arms, and that they are willing to risk their own lives for the sake of the British Empire. Such a moral demonstration will be worth many a successful battle. Such an opportunity as this does not occur even once in a century, and we do hope that it will not be thrown away.

EMPEROR ASOKA.

THE proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for January last contain a very interesting paper by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra on Emperor Asoka. Of all the ancient Indian monarchs whose monuments have come down to us, the Emperor Asoka, as the learned Doctor remarks, was the greatest. His sway extended from Kapurdegiri in the Eusafzai country to Dhauli in Cuttack, and from north Tirhoot to the Peninsula of Guzerat. The birth of Asoka, as usual with ancient Hindu characters, is mixed up with romance. We are told that when Vindusara was reigning at Pataliputra, a Brahman of Champapuri presented him a daughter named Subhadrangi. The damsel was extraordinary beautiful, and a soothsayer having foretold that she would be the wife of a great king and mother of a universal monarch, the father made the present with a view to help the prophecy. The immediate fruit of this presentation did not, however, prove satisfactory to Subhadrangi. Imured in the palace, she was, through the jealousy of the princesses of the zenana, doomed to menial service. Among other low occupations she was ordered to acquire the art of a barber, whereby she was told, she would gain the good will of the king. When well proficient in the art, she was ordered by the princesses to go and shave the king. She did so, and acquitted herself so well that the king offered to grant her any boon she wished. She prayed for his society; but the king denounced her on account of her being of the low caste of a barber. She explained that she was only acting the part of a barber by order of the princesses of the palace, but that she was a Brahmani by birth, and had been presented to the king expressly with a view to his marrying her. The king, thus reminded of her history, granted her wish and made her the chief queen of the palace. Asoka was the first fruit of this union. He was so named because the mother emancipated herself from sufferings by his birth, the word meaning "griefless." Asoka was uncomely in his person, and that was the cause of his not winning the affection of his father. His conduct too was repulsive. He was so very unruly and troublesome, that he got the nick-name of *Chanda* or 'the violent.' His father made him over for training to an astrologer, named Pingalavatsa, who foretold, after casting various kinds of lots, that the boy would succeed his father on the throne of Pataliputra. Asoka was unruly in his temper and was sent abroad by his father to quell a mutiny at Takshasila. Before his death the king appointed Asoka as his successor to the exclusion of his eldest son Susima. The latter, disappointed of his patrimony, rose against his younger brother, and attacked Pataliputra; but Asoka, through his able minister Radha Gupta, overpowered him, and, to prevent future disturbances, ordered his ministers "to lop off the heads of all the trees in the royal garden with their flowers and fruits," in the same sense

in which Tarquin the Proud lopped off the heads of the "tallest poppies" in his garden, to instruct his son as to what he should do. The ministers demurred, and so he himself struck off their heads and retiring to a garden with the ladies of the palace, enjoyed for a time the pleasures of life to the utmost.

Asoka was the first royal personage converted to Buddhism. The history of his conversion is thus given by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra. On one occasion Asoka went to a Yati, at the Kukuta garden, to study the true religion, and, at the suggestion of that recluse, sent for, from the Urumunda Hill, a Yati named Upa Gupta, to whom he assigned the monastery of Venuvana, or the "Bamboo Grove." This saint was the son of one Gupta, a rich man of Mathura who had been converted by one Sonavasi, a mendicant who resided on the Urumunda Hill, and had presented his three sons, As'va Gupta, Dhana Gupta and Upa Gupta, to his tutor. A prophecy of Buddha is quoted, according to which the birth of Upa Gupta was to take place a hundred years after his demise (*mama nirvritimarabhyasatavarshagata upaguptanama bhikshurupat-syati*. Fol. 23-24). This chronology, however, does not accord with the statement that Asoka was the thirteenth from Bimbisara, and contemporary of Buddha. A contemporary of Asoka could scarcely be born within a hundred years of the reformer's death. Such a prophecy, however, was needed to exalt the rank of the great teacher who became the spiritual guide of so mighty a sovereign as Asoka. Having studied Buddhism under this tutor, Asoka, under his guidance, went on a pilgrimage to all the principal holy places, visiting the tree under which, in the Lumbini-garden, Buddha was born, the places sanctified by the saint's youthful sports, and the tree under the shade of which he performed his long protracted penance. This last tree is named *Jambubriksha*, (*Eugenia jambulana*) and not, as is usually believed and elsewhere described, an *Asvatha*. At all these places Asoka caused a Matha or monastery to be established for the adoration of the "Three jewels." When the teacher retired to his own hermitage, Asoka caused a proclamation to be issued, declaring Buddhism to be the religion of his country; and devoted all his wealth to the propagation and glory of his new religion, and particularly in the embellishment of the Bodhi Tree, or the Tree of Knowledge, at Buddha Gaya. Until lately the belief was general that Asoka was a Hindu, and it was supported by the Pali annals of Ceylon, which describe him to have followed the doctrine of the Brahmins. But a theory has been set afloat by Mr. Thomas, the great numismatist, that Asoka was a Jain, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra controverts this theory, and in our opinion he does so quite successfully. He says:

"It is abundantly evident from the edicts that Asoka did forsake one religion and accept another; but what it was he forsook, the edicts do not say. There is one passage in these edicts, however, which affords circumstantial evidence of great importance. Mr. Thomas has carefully analysed the whole of the edicts, and described at great length their scope and purpose, but the particular passage to which the speaker referred had been somehow all but entirely overlooked. The passage referred to was the last paragraph of the first Tablet, and in adverting to it, Mr. Thomas simply quotes these words: 'This is the edict of the beloved of the gods Raja Pivadasa—the putting to death of animals is to be entirely discontinued.' Now the passage, as rendered by Prinsep runs thus—'Formerly in the great refectory and temple of the heaven-beloved king Pivadasa daily were many hundred thousand animals sacrificed for the sake of meat food. So even at this day, while this religious edict is under promulgation, from the sacrifice of animals for the sake of food, some two are killed, or one is killed;—but now the joyful chorus resounds again and again—that from henceforward not a single animal shall be put to death.'"

"The philosophical character of Jainism allied it very closely to Vedantism, and in that respect it could well pass for a Hindu form of faith. Its belief in the Tirthankaras, or incarnations of the Godhead for the redemption of sinners and the spread of the true religion, also brought it into close relationship with the religion of the Brahmins. But it set itself in antagonism to Hinduism, the old faith of the country, by denouncing the Vedas as false, and the sacrifices enjoined in them as mischievous and sinful. A

hypertrophy of the feeling of mercy for animated creatures, forms its cardinal point. It might be that originally this feeling was not carried to the absurd extent which resulted, to quote the vivid language of Mr. Thomas, in "devices of Hospitals for the suffering members of the brute creation, and ultimately, in after times, progressing into the absurdity of the wearing of respirators and the perpetual waving of fans, to avoid the destruction of minute insect life. An infatuation, which eventually led to the surrendering of thrones and kingdoms, to avoid a chance step which should crush a worm, or anything that crept upon the face of the earth; and more detrimental still, a regal interference with the every-day life of the people at large, and the subjecting of human labour to an enforced three months' cessation in the year, in order that a moth should not approach a lighted lamp, and the revolving wheel should not crush a living atom in the mill." But it is impossible to conceive a form of Jainism which tolerated the daily sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of animals for meat food or religious worship. From its very conception Jainism, like Buddhism, was a protest against the sacrifices of the Vedas. At a time when the Vedic ordinances enjoined hecatombs of cattle as the means of salvation, and the cruel practice of driving wooden spikes into the hearts of the victims as the orthodox mode of slaughter, such a protest was not only needed, but could not but most effectually appeal to the feeling of the public, and ally it on its behalf. This protest apart, there would be no *raison d'être* for Jainism; and to suppose therefore that Asoka, as a Jain, could, for purpose of *puya* and food, daily sacrifice hundreds of thousands of animals, would be to assume a gross inconsistency. As a Hindu, following the canons of the Kalpa Sutra, he could do all that and more most appropriately; and the presumption therefore would be strong, that he was a Hindu following the Hindoo faith when he indulged in those sacrifices, and became a Jain, or a Buddhist, when, in the 10th or 12th year of his reign, he prohibited those sacrifices. This would be a much more reasonable solution of the question, than the supposition that, notwithstanding his Jainism, he had, from the heedlessness of youth, or the love of "cake and ale," indulged in transgressions of the rules of his ancestral faith.

Such a solution would, likewise, be in keeping with the accounts of the Pali annals of Ceylon, which in a case of this kind, were more reliable than deductions founded upon monograms and mystic symbols of doubtful significance, and of such extensive currency that their testimony could not be of any use in settling the question. The most important of these symbols was the *svastika*. It was unquestionably held in great veneration by the Jains; but, as shewn elsewhere (Proceedings for June 1877), it was held in equal esteem by the Hindus, and was well known to and used by, the Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, Assyrians and other nations of antiquity. Mr. Thomas is of opinion that the Pali annals of the 5th century, living years after the event, could not be expected to afford the best evidence on the subject. "Under any circumstances," he observes, "their testimony would not carry much weight in the argument about other lands and other times, and it is moreover, a crucial question as to how much they knew about Brahmanism itself, and whether the use of the word Brahmanism does not imply merely, in this sense, a non-Buddhist or any religion opposed to their own." This assumption of the ignorance of the Sinhalese annalists as to the true nature of Brahmanism is, however, gratuitous. There is nothing to justify it: on the contrary much in their writings go to show that they were perfectly familiar with it. Their intercourse with the people of the Coromandel Coast gave them ample opportunities to know the nature of Brahmanism; and Brahmanism in the South did not, in the 5th century, differ much, if at all, from that of the North.

Dr. Rajendralala adduces other evidence in support of his position. There is one indirect proof, which greatly strengthens the learned doctor's theory. Asoka was a most powerful monarch; his reign marks an important era in India history; he founded most munificent benefactions; and yet strange to say he was little noticed by contemporary Hindu writers. What could be the cause of this significant silence? To our mind it was the change of his faith. As a renegade from the religion of his ancestors he was detested by the Hindus, and nowhere noticed in their ancient records; and the Buddhists, whose ranks he joined, having been expelled the country, could not keep his name alive in India.

MR. G. W. KELLNER C.S.I.

We commend to our country Mr. G. W. Kellner's career as a remarkable instance of

self-reliance. Born of a humble family, without friends, without influential connections, he steadily made his way in life and acquired a position, which no other uncovenanted servant has yet attained to. He was an old Dovetonian, and commenced his living by drawing. He next became a school-master at the Dacca College, but soon after joined the Military Audit Office as a clerk. There his sterling worth attracted notice. Although occupying a subordinate position, his talents were duly appreciated, and when in 1855 the public were scandalized by the state of the accounts of the Government Studs Lord Dalhousie, on the recommendation of Col. Goldie, selected Mr. Kellner to report on the accounts and financial condition of the Studs. This was the making of Mr. Kellner. Col. E. I. Dickey, Superintendent of Studs, wrote after the completion of his labors:

"I beg leave here to bear testimony to the very able manner in which he has discharged an invidious duty under circumstances of no common difficulty. He has conducted his enquiries with great tact and discretion, and without favor or affection to any party concerned. Mr. Kellner returns to the Presidency with the respect and good wishes of myself and every officer in the Stud Department.

Major W. W. Apperley, Deputy Superintendent of Studs, reported:

"Mr. Kellner's abilities are of no common order; his perseverance, energy, and peculiar method of getting to the bottom of mystified accounts, and his quickness of perception in making himself thoroughly acquainted with the whole working of the Studs, has astonished me. Even the various and complicated systems connected with the cultivation of the different Farms did not escape him. On his return to Calcutta, there will be no information connected with the Studs required that he will not be able to furnish.

The Hon'ble E. Drummond, Accountant-General, remarked:

"It is now vain to regret the long continuance of a state of things which necessarily resulted from the absence of all proper system, and the almost entire relinquishment of control of the local accounts to the under-paid officials, who were at the same time treasurers, accountants, and head writers, and whose object it was, in the pursuit of illicit gain, to mystify all transactions—it is a phase through which nearly all Departments have passed at different periods, and we may rather rejoice that while this is the last Department which needed revision, the remedy has been at length so efficiently applied, and at so small a cost as that of Mr. Kellner's deputation.

The able report of that gentleman, which I have now the honor to submit, leaves me little to add regarding the general system of accounts, which has received my entire concurrence. It now only remains for me to solicit the attention of his Lordship in Council to the high terms in which all the officers connected with the Department speak of the zeal, ability, and discretion exhibited by Mr. Kellner in the fulfilment of the arduous task entrusted to him, a well-earned testimony to his merits in which I am happy to express my entire concurrence. All the objects of his deputation have been fully attained, and I have no doubt that his exertions will receive from Government that meed of approbation which they so well deserve.

Both the Government of India and the Court of Directors thanked Mr. Kellner in high terms.

We next find Mr. Kellner, in 1859-60, employed in an enquiry into the Army Clothing Department, and here also he was instrumental in effecting large savings. On submission of his report the Military Secretary wrote to him to say, that "the care and ability with which you have carried on your proceedings are viewed with much satisfaction by Government." The Military Finance Department thus wrote to Government on the subject:

"I well know that the intricacy, confusion, and complexity of such accounts as those which Mr. Kellner has to unravel, could only be appreciated by those who, like myself, have read some of the voluminous papers relating to the Weedon enquiry. The investigation into the Weedon accounts was conducted by a member of the eminent firm of Accountants, Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Company, and yet, with an unlimited command of such a staff of able accountants as London alone can supply, it occupied him eight months, and cost £8,000 sterling. This fact will indicate the difficulty of investigating accounts like those of the Clothing Department here. In consequence of the Weedon enquiry, out of chaos has sprung order and regularity, and being satisfied that the investigation has been carefully pursued by Mr. Kellner, in effecting a thorough reform, by the co-operation of Captain Delane, I have every reason to hope for similar results here."

In the years 1862-63, whilst on furlough in Europe, Mr. Kellner was officially employed in studying the accounts of the Treasury, War Office, Admiralty, Post Office, and other public departments in England, also of the War Department and Court of Accounts in France. It was then Lord Northbrook, who had vacated his appointment in the India Office, wrote to Sir Charles Trevelyan:

You have a very good Indian Account Officer going back to his work,—Mr. Kellner. He has taken every pains to acquire a knowledge of English and French Accounts. Anderson liked him very much, and I am convinced that you will find him, with his Indian experience and the inculcation of correct principles that he has gained here, a most valuable public servant.

About this time Sir J. W. Smith, K.C.B. Commissary General-in-Chief of the British Army in a note to Mr. Kellner wrote:

In the whole course of my forty year's experience I never met any one who exhibited a quicker or more sound appreciation of such business as ours is in regard to both details and principles; whilst you possess a singular degree of intuitive genius for accounts, not as a mere methodical and industrious Accountant, but in the broadest sense that my meaning can be conveyed.

Mr. John Milton, Assistant Accountant General, thus wrote to Mr. Kellner:

I have been very happy in being able to give you ready access to our Finance Branches here, and most diligently and ably have you availed yourself of the opportunities thus afforded you of looking into our system; but I doubt whether you have learnt so much as you have taught us here, and "verily your debtors we are," the balance of aid being still due by us. I can only say how glad I shall be of repaying you such balance on some future visit of yours to England.

Sir William G. Anderson, Principal Financial officer in H. M.'s Treasury, also wrote to Mr. Kellner as follows:

Before you depart for India, allow me to request your best assistance to my friends Messrs. Foster and Whiffia, who will derive the greatest benefit from your practical knowledge of the Indian system of Finance and Accounts. I solicit this aid from you, not only on account of your intimate knowledge of the Indian system, but more especially because your enquiries into the offices here have made you thoroughly acquainted with our Home system, its merits and its defects. Both these gentlemen are very efficient, and I hope you will kindly undertake to initiate them in the study of the Indian system. Practical knowledge is indispensable for the reform of any system of administration and accounts; this knowledge you possess, and have moreover had the advantage of studying our regulations here; and my own experience has taught me that it is of the utmost importance to combine practical with theoretical knowledge, to ensure the success of any reform in the system of managing and conducting the details of a great Financial Department.

It is my intention to write to Sir Charles Trevelyan to tell him how essential it is that you should continue to give your aid to these gentlemen to ensure the success of their mission.

In 1864, Mr. Kellner was associated with the English Commissioners of Accounts for revising the accounts of the Indian Government.

In 1865-66, he was employed in the Public Works Department, more especially in establishing an effective financial control over the guaranteed railways in India. These services were noticed in the Secretary of State's despatches, dated respectively the 30th March and 8th April 1867. In 1867-68, he was appointed to inspect the accounts of the Customs House, the Bank of Bengal, and the civil account departments throughout India. In the year 1869, he was officially deputed to Europe, through Turkey, to prepare and report upon the accounts of the Indo-European Telegraph. This service was accomplished, and Mr. Kellner's report was printed as a Parliamentary Paper. After rendering these special services, Mr. Kellner, in the year 1871, was appointed to the important office of Military Accountant General of India, which office he has held for seven years—having intermediately been twice employed on public duty in England, viz., in the year 1873, he was officially deputed to England to appear before the Committee of the House of Commons on Indian Finance, and in the year 1874 he was again employed in connection with a Royal Commission on the Home Military Charges of India.

The Government of India addressed the following despatch to the Secretary of State recommending Mr. Kellner's appointment to the office of Accountant General, Military Department:

In view of the peculiar qualifications required and the nature of the duties to be assigned to the "Accountant General," we consider that the post should be one for which officers of the Civil, Military, or Uncovenanted Services should be alike eligible, as may be deemed expedient in the interests of the public service.

These duties have been performed, since the 1st of January last, by Mr. G. W. Kellner, an officer of the Financial Department, whose services were especially placed at the disposal of the Military Department for that purpose.

Owing to the long and continued illness of Major-General Broome, and the illness at various times also of Mr. Simkins, the Assistant Controller General, the work of the Military Accounts Department had fallen heavily into arrears, and on Mr. Kellner joining the office many difficult and important matters were in abeyance.

By the zeal and assiduity with which Mr. Kellner has performed his duties, we have been enabled to dispose satisfactorily of a large proportion of these cases, but there are still many important questions under consideration, in dealing with which Mr. Kellner's special training and long and varied experience will be of great value.

The accounts establishments in all three Presidencies have to be re-organized and the various offices inspected; the system of accounts has to be modified for the purposes of a more effective financial control; the history of past military expenditure requires to be carefully written up; the Military Pay Code has to be completed, and nearly half a century's accounts of Army Prize Funds have to be rectified, while difficult questions connected with the Military and Medical Service Funds have yet to be settled.

It is known to Your Grace that Mr. Kellner has frequently been employed, to the entire satisfaction of the Government, in difficult and delicate inquiries into the accounts of various departments of the State, amongst which may be enumerated the Studs, Clothing, and Public Works Departments, Railways, Stationery, Customs, Bengal Local Funds, and the Indo-European Telegraphs, in all of which duties he exhibited marked zeal and intelligence and afforded very valuable aid. Moreover, when on leave in England some years since, Mr. Kellner devoted much time and attention to the system of accounts as adopted by the Government Departments at Home and in the French War Office, and acquired much valuable knowledge.

Taking all these circumstances and the present state of the Military Accounts Department into consideration, and bearing in mind that what is wanted in aid of the Military Department is a thorough mastery of military finance and not military knowledge, which latter is at the ready command of Government within and without the Military Department, the Government of India is satisfied that at the present juncture Mr. Kellner is the officer best qualified to fill the position of Accountant General in the Military Department, and he has accordingly been nominated to that post.

It will be thus seen that Mr. Kellner's official career has been most successful, and his success has been due entirely to his own merits, energy and perseverance. He combines with rare talents a sweet disposition, which disarms opposition, however delicate and invidious the work he might be engaged in. As a mark of his Sovereign's favour Her Majesty the Empress of India has been pleased to confer upon him the insignia of the Star of India. A self-made man, winning friends wherever he went and in whatever position he was placed, devoted to his work, and always holding his own with strong arms, Mr. Kellner's career, we repeat, is an example for our countrymen.

THE FATHER OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

THE Hon'ble F. B. Kemp is the Father of the Indian Civil Service. He came to India in November 1831 and has thus seen 47 summers in the service of this country. After an Indian career of nearly half a century Mr. Kemp leaves for his native land next month.

Mr. Kemp comes from a good English stock. He is the son of the late Thomas Read Kemp Esq. of Lewes, Sussex, and brother-in-law of the Bishop of Durham, uncle of Lord Northbrook. The seat of his family is the Kemp Town, in Brighton, which has immensely risen in value within the last half century, and the lease of which will fall in within a few years. He was an Etonian, and largely inherited the fine spirit of his *alma mater*. After passing through the usual noviciate he became Commissioner of the Sunderbuns and the settlement made by him, as a contemporary justly remarks, "were among the most equitable settlements of this time." He afterwards served in several districts, but he distinguished himself most as District Judge of Backergunge. Mr. Kemp may be said to be gifted with a judicial temperament. Passion does not disturb his temper; bias does not warp his judgment. He holds the scale of justice with an even hand. He is a typical Civilian of the Haileybury school—able, honest, considerate and sympathizing. He is a thorough master of the Bengali language; he is one of the few Bengal Civilians, who can read a vernacular *nath* through without the aid of a *mo-hurir* or *peshkar*; he speaks Bengali beautifully, and thoroughly understands the customs, habits and manners of the people. He writes a splendid Bengali hand; in fact we have not seen the like of it from a European. He has become so much used to judicial work that the moment

a case is opened before him he can at once seize its salient points. The Civilians as a rule are not good judges of facts, but Mr. Kemp is a remarkable exception. He established his judicial reputation in Backergunge. His connection with that district was made memorable by the Baropakhyia case. There are not many left in these days, who recollect the facts of that case. It was a case of riot, on one side of which were ranged two zemindars and on the other the Baptist Missionaries of Backergunge. It is not necessary at this distance of time to recall the facts of this case. Mr. Kemp, bold and uncompromising as he has always been, gave his judgment against the Missionaries. As usual the Missionaries raised a long howl, and Sir Frederic Halliday, who was then the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, and a personal friend of Father John of the *Friend of India*, was very much dissatisfied with Mr. Kemp's judgment. There was no appeal from it, but Sir Frederic, if we remember aright, brought it under the notice of the Sudder Court as a Court of General Revision and Superintendence. The Sudder Court upheld Mr. Kemp's judgment, but at the same time expressed an opinion that the zemindars' people might have been punished. This gave Sir Frederic a good handle, which he did not fail to use. He came down with sledge-hammer upon Mr. Kemp. The Missionaries were also not the men to keep quiet, and kept on a running fire upon the poor Judge in the shape of letters to newspapers, leaders in the *Friend*, pamphlets and reports. But Mr. Kemp was made of a stern stuff; he clung to his own judgment, and appealed to the Government of India against the censure passed upon him by Sir Frederic Halliday. Sir John Peter Grant was then Member of the Supreme Council, and he went through all the papers in the case with his usual judicial calmness. He supported Mr. Kemp, and the Government of India accordingly cancelled the censure recorded by Sir Frederic Halliday. But Mr. Kemp was long left in the cold in consequence of this escapade. On the establishment of the High Court in 1863, he was appointed a judge of that Court, and if there was a judge of the High Court respected by his colleagues, by suitors, and advocates alike, it was Mr. Kemp. Gentle, generous, and just, all had equal confidence in him. He acted up to the good old maxim—better that ten guilty men should escape than that one innocent man should suffer. Calm, patient, and careful he seldom delivered a judgment, which failed to carry conviction to the minds of those concerned. In the discharge of his judicial functions, he never allowed his mind to be swayed by personal or political considerations. In his eyes all were equal, the Raja or the ryot, the European or the native, the Crown or the subject. He could never tolerate high-handed proceedings or oppressions of any kind, and whenever he had the power, he was ready to give the needful redress. He knew the weak points in the character of the people of this country, and used to make a generous allowance for them. He thinks as well as feels strongly, but he was always jealous of his position and character as a judge. He would not hesitate to condemn the Government strongly, if he saw good reasons to do so, when it stood as a suitor before him but on no other occasion would he take any notice of the acts or conduct of the Government, though as a warm-hearted friend of the people, and an uncompromising lover of justice he could not always approve of them in his own conscience. Mr. Kemp's retirement is a loss to the High Court as well as to the country. He has, however, served his Sovereign and her Indian empire long enough and has well earned rest. May he live long and enjoy peace and happiness is our humble prayer! Men of his type are fast disappearing. Among his colleagues in the High Court he leaves at least one Bengal Civilian who possesses many of his good qualities—unruffled temper, calm and dispassionate judgment, a warm sympathy for the people, and at the same time a fearless and uncompromising character, we allude to the Hon'ble H. T. Prinsep.

MORE TAXATION IN MADRAS.

MADRAS is particularly unfortunate. It has been the victim of a Famine, the like of which

has not been seen in this country; it is not yet fairly out of the danger. One would think that this was a most inopportune time for saddling it with fresh taxation. But the fates have ordained otherwise. Madras has been subjected to a double tax, a license tax, and a heavy salt tax. And there is still something in store for it. A new Bill has been passed authorizing the levy of Police contributions on Mofussil towns in Madras. The independent members opposed the passing of the Bill—they urged its postponement at any rate, but as usual the official majority carried the day. The Hon'ble Mr. Sashia Sastri said:

"From what was known of most of the municipalities, he found that they suffered from want of funds and that such a measure as that which it was now proposed to adopt was calculated to fall heavily on them. Especially now, as the Imperial License Tax was to be levied, the provisions of the Bill under discussion would be felt as an additional and a great hardship and would break the backs of the municipalities and would impose undue hardships on those corporations."

The Hon'ble Mir Humayun Jan Bahadur remarked:

The financial condition of most of the Municipalities was such that the legitimate objects which ought to be attended to by them had to be neglected, and he thought that they should not be called upon to bear additional burdens. He held that it was the fundamental duty of Government to look to the preservation of the life and property of its subjects. He referred to the regulations of 1802 under which lands were taken up by the Government for the maintenance of police, but under the present system it appeared that it was sought to make the people pay.

The Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie said:

"It is no slight burden on an impoverished people, and I would have hesitated before laying simultaneously a similar burden on the people for Municipal purposes; and we must not forget that in 12 towns, at all events, this resource does not exist, for there the tax is already in force. Municipal institutions are but of recent introduction into India, and, within a comparatively short time, we have thrown upon the towns people many charges which the people of this country have not been accustomed to bear in, to them, a direct and tangible form; for example Education, Hospitals, Vaccination, Registration of births and deaths, Conservancy, and so on. It is now proposed to throw on them a further charge which will amount in the Mofussil to about 18 per cent, of the present taxation, in other words, to raise taxation—about 18 per cent, I cannot believe that this can be done without severe pressure upon a people who are already suffering from the effects of the most serious calamity which Southern India has experienced for many years, and I cannot vote for the imposition of such a charge without further information from the several Municipalities themselves as to their capacity at present to bear the proposed charge."

He thus concluded:

"I would most earnestly deprecate any imposition of fresh burdens on its Municipal Funds, until the fact of a surplus income to meet those new burdens has been thoroughly and satisfactorily ascertained. I shall no doubt be told that I am proposing that the general Revenues of the country shall pay for our Madras Municipal Police and I admit that at present it is so. But I think the Presidency owes something to the town which maintains the seat of Government. I think that in many ways, the presence of the seat of Government, large establishments, troops, arsenals, workshops, &c., add to the expenses of the town, while there is much Government property in lands and houses of very considerable annual value, which is not rated at all for Municipal purposes. It is not with us a case of shirking a charge we are able to pay, but the cost of keeping the town in order has exhausted all our available sources of revenue, and we are forced to ask, if not for a total exemption, at least for time for some reasonable interval until we can see how the charge can be met."

His Grace the Governor thus wound up the debate:

It was the Government that were tied by the Bill, for it provided that the Government must pay half the cost of the city Police and one third of the Mofussil Police, while it was left to the Government to levy what it chose from the Municipalities according to the circumstances of each case. It was thus to be seen that every consideration was made for the Municipalities, who might in some cases have little to pay and in other perhaps nothing. As to the passing

of the Bill, His Grace considered it desirable that it should pass without delay, as it would allow the Municipalities time to readjust their expenditure and see how the charge might be met. His Grace held that the measure was absolutely necessary, and that the Council should pass it at once.

And the Bill was accordingly passed. The effect of this Bill would we fear be either the neglect of legitimate municipal improvements or an enormous increase of taxation. This time we repeat is most inopportune for increased taxation in Madras. The issue of the debate in the Madras Council again points to the utter uselessness and powerlessness of the non official element whenever any important question is involved, regarding which the Government has formed a determined opinion.

PRISON RULES.

THE LONDON STANDARD has an important article on prison administration. Last year considerable opposition was offered to those clauses of the Prisons Bill by which the Home Secretary was empowered and directed to exercise the new jurisdiction conferred upon him. The rules, which the Home Secretary was directed to frame, have now appeared, and their main scope is thus indicated by our contemporary. The first half dozen provide merely for the times and means at and by which the Visiting Committees, who are to take the place and perform the functions hitherto belonging to the visiting justices, are to be appointed, and are of a merely technical character. Next follows a list of the smaller local prisons which may at any time be discontinued by an order of the Home Secretary, and of the large ones which are to absorb the inmates they have received. The duties of the Visiting Committees, who are intended to be representative bodies of Justices appointed in due proportion by the different Borough and Country Quarter Sessions, are next defined. Among these the most important, and perhaps the only ones to which any novelty or public interest attaches, are those which relate to the classification of prisoners, and to the distinction to be henceforth made between those inmates who are undergoing sentence and those who are merely remanded or committed for trial. The hardships necessarily entailed upon prisoners who are still untried and unconvicted, have recently attracted a considerable amount of attention. The system of treatment which was thought good enough for practical purposes only a few years ago already seems antiquated and barbarous to the eyes of modern humanity, and has, even apart from these rules, been greatly modified by the improved practice of holding more frequent criminal assizes in the several counties. It was felt, however, that it was not enough merely to shorten the time of probation in such cases, unless something was done to soften the rigours of that inevitable period so long as it lasted. To such an extent, indeed, was this view carried by some that it was actually proposed by Mr. Sheridan, in Committee on the Prisons Bill last year, that no untried prisoner should be subjected to any restraint on personal liberty, or to any other gaol discipline, except so far as was actually necessary to secure his attendance before the Court or magistrate by whom he was to be tried. Amongst the special subjects to which the enabling clauses of the Bill directed the Home Secretary's attention were the retention by prisoners of documents found in their possession which they might desire to use in the preparation of their defence, and the means to be afforded to such prisoners of communicating with their friends or legal advisers for the same purpose. Both these subjects, with others cognate to them, are amply provided for in the rules which have just been published, of which the following is the general effect:—Prisoners awaiting trial are to be relieved, where it is plainly superfluous, from the humiliation of being compelled to take a bath on entering the prison, and the governor is to have a general discretion to modify the prison routine wherever in any particular case it is clearly unnecessary. They are to be kept apart from each other, and may be permitted, on the payment of a reasonable sum, to enjoy the luxury of a separate and suitable room, private furniture and utensils, and the service of another

person to perform menial or unaccustomed offices. Books, newspapers, and food in lieu of the ordinary prison diet, are also, subject to the discretionary supervision of the Visiting Committee, and at the cost of the prisoners themselves, to be supplied to them. To these purposes any money found on the prisoner upon his reception may be applied, at the request of the prisoner, and subject to the same discretion. It is hardly necessary to add that the degrading process of "cropping" the hair, which might stamp an innocent man with the mark of a gaol-bird for weeks after his acquittal, is to be dispensed with; a more important provision is that which enables any prisoner awaiting trial to secure the attendance of a private medical man in case of ill-health, of course at his own expense. The privileges above enumerated are to be extended even after conviction to those who are sentenced as misdemeanants of the first class, and are in that capacity undergoing imprisonment. The regulations which are intended to assist prisoners in obtaining legal advice, and in preparing for their trial, are, of course, not applicable to the class of misdemeanants last mentioned. All such prisoners are to be allowed to have, on application to the governor, any books or papers found on them on their reception which they claim as necessary for the purposes of their defence. Then the prisoners for purposes of their defence are to be allowed, in addition to the ordinary visits by friends in conformity with the prison rules, to see their solicitor in private at any unreasonable hour; and in the case of persons imprisoned merely in default of bail the same privilege is to attach to the visits of any friends made for the *bona fide* purpose of bail being provided. It will be seen that though prisoners thus have it in their power to obtain very great privileges under these rules, money is required for the realisation of almost all of them; and the most novel provision in the whole scheme is that which directs that facilities shall be given to all prisoners awaiting trial to work at their respective trades, the earnings, after deducting a certain sum for the cost of the prisoner's maintenance, to remain the property of the prisoner. Such are the leading provisions of the new Prison Rules of England. Many of them are fit to be introduced in India.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

WE UNDERSTAND that the Famine Commission is constituted as follows: General Strachey President, Mr. Elliott, Secretary; members, Mr. Caird, the hon'ble Mr. Justice Canningham, Messrs Ballard, Batten, Peile, Rungacharlu, and the Karbaree of Kalhapore.

WE LEARN that some enquiries have been made as to the probability of Government allowing to wives of officers of the Force proceeding to Malta a free passage to England. We hear that it is not at all likely that this concession will be made. When a similar concession was made at the time of the China Expedition the precedent was strongly objected to by the Secretary of State, and as the cost of the Malta expedition will be met from English revenues it is very unlikely that the War Office authorities would pass such a charge.

BABU KALLYKISSEN TAGORE has made the following munificent gifts to charitable institutions in celebration of the marriage of his sons:

To the North Suburban Hospital	
Rs. 10,000 for maintenance of In-door patients and Rs. 3,000 due to Messrs. Mackintosh Burn & Co., for building.....	Rs. 13,000
To the Mayo Native Hospital.....	Rs. 10,000
To the Bundipur Charitable Dispensary for building.....	Rs. 2,000
To the Burisal Girls' School for building	Rs. 2,000
For a Dinner to the inmates of Alms House and House of Industry, and for beddings of the Lepers in the Leper Asylum...	Rs. 1,800
Spent in distributing alms to the poor of the city and suburbs.....	Rs. 15,000
To the District Charitable Society.....	Rs. 10,000
Total Rs.	53,800

We wish other wealthy native gentlemen, who are fond of pomp and extravagance on occa-

sions of marriages, would follow the noble example of Babu Kallykissen Tagore.

WE ARE glad to learn that subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State the arrangements provisionally introduced by His Excellency the Viceroy to place reliable information at the disposal of the Indian Press have been made permanent. We learn from a telegram from Simla that His Excellency in Council is pleased to appoint Mr. Roper Lethbridge C. I. E. to be Press Commissioner with the Government of India. Mr. Lethbridge is attached to the Foreign Department and will rank with Political Agents of the first class. The successful noviciate through which Mr. Lethbridge has passed for about a year in this work fully entitles him to the confidence of Government, and we are glad that he has been appointed Press Commissioner. It is not every man, who possesses the necessary qualifications, which he however does possess in a remarkable degree, for this delicate task. We are not told whether the new Press Commissioner will have any thing to do with the Vernacular Press Act.

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN of Washington has the following:

Dr. M. M. Bose, of Calcutta, Bengal, was received yesterday by the President, and was much pleased with the courtesy extended to him. His visit to this capital has afforded him the utmost gratification. He has visited the Departments of State, Treasury, Interior, Post-Office, Patent-Office, Deaf and Dumb Asylum, &c., carefully inspecting our institutions, with a view to treasure up and carry home any ideas that may be utilized in India. He has been everywhere received with the greatest kindness.

This young man is the younger brother of our well-known countryman Mr. A. M. Bose. He went to America to learn Homœopathy in its very home. He has just taken his M. D. degree at the New York Homœopathic College. The President of the College at the ceremony of conferring degrees specially congratulated him on the high position he had occupied at the examination (which comprised all the subjects taught at an Allopathic Institution, and the Homœopathic Materia Medica in addition.) The Dean and the Professors of the College have also given him very good testimonials. After taking his degree at New York, Dr. Mohinymohun visited, amongst other places, Washington, where General Eaton shewed him all that was worth seeing in the city. He had an interview with the President, who shewed him great consideration and kindness. Babu Mohinymohun was the only native of India in America during his stay there; but it is to be hoped that many more will by and bye visit the New World, and awaken the sympathy and interest for our country in the Far West, which an extended personal intercourse is sure to create. Dr. Mohinymohun Bose has now returned to Glasgow where he goes in for his Allopathic degree next June, provided of course the authorities there do not allow their prejudices against Homœopathy to throw any obstacle in his way.

SOMETIME ago we drew the attention of Government to the pitiable condition of the Raj Family of Bishenpore. We are glad to learn that the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Bengal Government, has sanctioned the continuance to the present Raja of Bishenpore half the pension of his deceased father as a compassionate allowance for his life-time. We give below the letter of the Collector of Bankura to the Raja of Bishenpore:

Bankoora Collectorate. The 16th April 1878. From R. M. Walter Esq., Collector of Bankoora. To Babu Ramkrishna Singha Deo of Bishenpore.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the Governor General in Council has sanctioned the continuance of half the pension of the late Raja Gopal Singha Deo your father to you as a personal compassionate allowance during your life-time.

2. I am directed to tell you that this allowance will under no circumstances be continued to your descendants; and I would therefore press upon you the necessity of making some provision during your life for the support of any descendants whom you might otherwise leave at your death without the means of support.

This is a peculiar case, and it were to be wished that the pension had been made hereditary.

OUR ASSAM Correspondent writes as follows:

Lawlessness and complications are being multiplied at Dhubri. On the 22nd ultimo one Fulmohmed tendered an affidavit before Roy Haris Chundra Chaki, Extra Assistant Commissioner to support a motion to be filed in the High Court anent an order passed by the Deputy Commissioner under section 518 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Through some misrepresentation of one of the parties in the case, the motion was rejected, but the other day Fulmohmed tendered another affidavit before the same officer to support his application for a review of his motion, in question, but the Extra Assistant Commissioner declined to receive it on the ground that he has been forbidden by the Deputy Commissioner to do so, though he holds special powers from the High Court for the purpose.

Houses of several persons at Dhubri have been ordered by the Deputy Commissioner to be pulled down, so that the cleared plots of grounds may be converted into so many sites for would-be European residents of the place. Colonel Keatinge's advent to Assam was marked by the removal of the provincial head-quarters from Gauhati to Shillong and his term of office will be closed with the transfer of the District head-quarters from Goalpara to Dhubri, for which purpose the Government of India has been strongly recommended. Financially this proposal cannot be too strongly deprecated, for it will cost the State a great deal of money and the public an incalculable inconvenience.

WE ACKNOWLEDGED last week the receipt of a copy of the Specific Relief Act edited by Babu Mahendra Chundra Mitra, M. A. B. L. Pleader, Judge's Court, Hooghly. It is supplemented with copious notes illustrated by Indian as well as English cases, together with an index and appendix containing the objects and reasons of the Act. The subject of this law is abstruse, but the editor has elucidated it clearly and carefully. This publication will be a valuable guide to judicial officers and to the legal profession. We wish our pleaders would take the same interest by criticizing draft-laws, when their criticisms would be useful to the legislature and the public, that they do when the drafts become law.

THE HEALTH-OFFICER of Calcutta makes the following remarks on the rate of mortality in the Town in March last:

The death-rate of March, viz. 45.2 per 1,000 of population, was very high. From the extraordinarily high figure in December last, viz. 52.5 per 1,000, a gradual fall took place in January and February, but an increase in all the principal diseases of the zymotic class took place in the month of March. Cholera, which caused 98 deaths in the previous month, was fatal to 312 persons in this, which is one of the highest numbers of the decade. Small-pox was more prevalent than in any corresponding month. It caused no less than 287 deaths, against 33, the average of the decade. Fever, which had taken a favourable course in the last two preceding months, was again unusually severe in March. The increase in deaths registered as due to "other causes" was mainly due to infant mortality, which showed 62 deaths in excess of that of the corresponding month of the previous year.

Infant mortality was extremely high among the East Indian and Native population. Reckoned on estimated births, the ratios per 1,000 of population are as follow:—Hindus, 361; Mahomedans, 399; mixed races, 336.8; other Asiatic races, 82.5; non-Asiatics, 59.2.

The hot season is generally considered the healthy season of the year. This enormous increase in mortality in March calls for an explanation.

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT in Orissa corrects the statement made in his last letter that the Magistrate did not enforce the rigor of the sentence passed upon the Raja of Puri pending appeal. He says that this was the case on the first day, but on the next day the Raja was put in convict's dress. Our correspondent then writes as follows about the Orissa Jail:

"By the bye, here is some news for you—you know Mr. Eden has lately reduced the Police force in Orissa very considerably, a later order was for further clipping in the shape of *jawabing* the constabulary employed as Jail guards. The watch and ward are to be performed, henceforward by *Warders* in the place of Police Constables. You know again, what these warders are, they are mostly selected from long-term convicts. We verily apprehend, jail emeutes under these worthies. Perhaps Mr. Eden has forgotten that it was in the Cuttack Jail the most dreadful of Jail emeutes had taken place under the leadership of Sindhu Nayak, a Garjat convict; these

Badmashes from the Tributary States are still often sent to the Cuttack Jail for incarceration. There is the 12th Madras Native Infantry sitting idle in this station. Why not utilize the men by employing them as Jail and Treasury guards? In point of fact these Sepoys used to guard both treasure and convicts before the present Halli-a-daisical Police was constituted. I verily think our present practical Governor will take this hint."

REVIEW.

The Hindoo Pilgrims. By M. A. Sherring, M. A., LL. B., (Lond.) Fellow of the Calcutta University. London 1878.

THE Revd. Mr. Sherring, Principal of the Benares College, has had many opportunities of making himself acquainted with the legends and tales of the people of the North West. That he has utilized those opportunities to some purpose is apparent from the neat little volume before us. It is a collection of ballads and poems of the early days of Hindustan when the proud Rajputs owned no law but that of the sword, and when their deeds of prowess were the themes of minstrel and bard. These ballads and songs have been strung together, *a la Canterbury Tales*, by a narrative in which descriptions of Indian scenery and manners have been opportunely introduced.

Mr. Sherring in his modest preface says that "having retired to a sanatorium on the lower slopes of the Himalayas, in one of the most picturesque regions of those mountains, for a few months to recruit his health, and having abundance of leisure, he found entertainment for himself in the manner represented in these pages." We have, therefore, no wish to extend the critical eye to this book in the same way as one would be disposed to do to more ambitious attempts.

As a ballad writer Mr. Sherring cannot come up to our former Anglo-Indian poets, such as Parker, Calder Campbell, Macnaghten, Thompson and others, or to Griffiths or Waterfield of the present day. Mr. Sherring's verses are smooth enough and sometimes pretty enough, but they lack the fire and spirit which characterise the writings of Parker, and the sustained freshness and sweetness that distinguish the lines of Griffiths or Waterfield. There is an abundance of common-place thoughts and expressions which mar the beauty of the passages where they occur, and sometimes have the effect of turning into bathos lines, which otherwise would have raised very different feelings in the mind of the reader. In illustration of this remark we give a few instances taken at random from the book. The lines italicised will shew where we stumble:

"The Balunds swarmed on every side,
And "Vengeance! vengeance!" fiercely cried.
The ruin the Rajpoots befell
Was great, remorseless, terrible."

At a marriage—

"With boisterous zeal they sing and laugh;
Perhaps too much of palm-juice quaff."

"The affection of the wedded pair
Was true and constant, if not rare."

"And foul dishonour cast into my face."

"Of princely blood, a Gautam,
Of a noble Rajpoot clan,
He yields to none, my husband—
And never did—or can."

"But ere they reached the Ranees
Ajoodhya on her flew—
She on his head a blow struck,
A blow well-aimed and true."

The following simile, to say the least, has certainly not been felicitously conceived:—A great feast which continued for thirty days, and in which there was no lack of

Pillars, and well-spiced curries,
And savoury kichurees.

came at last to a happy end, the guests behaving in an exemplary way. The orderly manner in which every thing passed off has been compared by Mr. Sherring to the honey-moon days of a newly married pair (!), and to the slumbers of an infant dreaming of love and bliss!!

"As days just after marriage
Calmly and sweetly flow—
As the sun of summer setting
Sheds a mellow peaceful glow—
As an infant gently slumbering
Dreams only of love and bliss—
So passed this royal banquet
In tranquil joy, I wis."

The above would not have been out of place in Bon Gaultier's Ballads or in Puck on Pegasus; nor the following:

"But her voice began to falter,
And her speech to choke with sighs;
And her hidden sorrow burst forth
In incoherent cries:

But what we most complain of is the habit which Mr. Sherring has acquired of making eccentric rhymes. So eccentric and ridiculous and absurd at times, that we have been obliged to lay down the book in order to deliver ourselves of a hearty cachinnation before we could proceed further. A few examples will suffice:

"Soon as appeared the faintest streaks of dawn,
The Brahman rose, and blew the temple horn."

"Bred at Mahoba's royal court
Now feeble, and by war distraught."

"They passed beyond the temple—
They passed the tank and lawn—
So lightly, and so noiseless,
No sound on the breeze was borne."

"The wave by every Hindoo

Entered with pious awe,
Believing thus salvation
Is gained for evermore."

"All blessings, he replied, of every hue
Are granted plentifully by mighty Shiva."

* Note. The common pronunciation of Shiva.

We would earnestly beg of Mr. Sherring to get rid of the "awful habit" he has of making bad rhymes. In real poets eccentricities of this kind are passed over as dross in gold. Miss Elizabeth Barrett Browning was much given to eccentricities in rhyme, but who ever thinks of blaming her for that? Such eccentricities on her part added greater beauty, quaintness, and harmony to her productions. A couple of stanzas from one of her poems will convince the reader.

When the palace-ladies, sitting
Round your gittern, shall have said,
"Poet, sing those verses written,
For the lady who is dead,
Will you tremble
Yet dissemble,—
Or sing hoarse with tears between,
"Sweetest eyes, were ever seen?"
"Sweetest eyes!" how sweet in flowings
The repeated cadence is!
Though you sang a hundred poems,
Still the best one would be this.
I can hear it
Twixt my spirit
And the earth-noise intervene—
"Sweetest eyes, were ever seen!"

(CATARINA TO CAMOENS.)

It is under such conditions as the above that the public might tolerate eccentricities in rhyme.

But though Mr. Sherring's poetry is not of that order, which will ensure immortality, there are passages which, as we have said before, are pretty enough and smooth enough to deserve commendation. The following lines from "the Bhat's Song" are not inelegant or unmusical:

The jewels of Panna are costly and rare;
The silks of Umritsur are matchlessly fair;
But the waters of Gunga in beauty outvie
All the gems of the earth, all the stars of the sky.
Her fountains are pure as the snows of Kidar,
And her stream as it flows no foulness can mar;
But where Kasha's high temples eternally shine,
Each wave is a god, and each drop is divine.

The apostrophe to Treachery is fairly good:

"Through thee the best-laid plans have failed—
Through thee the noblest men have quailed—
Like mildew on a fruitful land,
Like fever to the vigorous hand,
Thy taint will blight the purest heart."

The following will also be admired:

As when a deer lies wounded,
And can no longer fly,
The hunter's heart is softened
By the tear-drop in her eye.

But such passages are few and far between. No doubt the volume before us is the production of Mr. Sherring's "prentice hand" at poetry. His next will, we hope, be free from the irregularities and blemishes we have pointed out above, and entitle him to hold a fair place in the ranks of our Anglo-Indian poets.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P.
Secy. Bhandara, Public Library.....	12	4	0
Pundit Joynarain Vajapey, Patna City	6	10	0
Secy. Belgaum Native General Library, Belgaum.....	13	3	0
Supdt. of Vaccination Darjeeling Circle, Parnah...	6	0	0
Baboo Sreeram Chatterjee, Saknara.....	6	10	0
" Kally Nath Bose, Nonkhally.....	13	4	0
" Rajender Sahoy, Darbhanga.....	2	8	0
" Gobind Chunder Dutt, Diamond Harbour	6	0	0
" Chander Kant Mookerjee, Dhubri.....	20	0	0
" Jogobundoo Sen, Dibrugarh.....	20	0	0
" Nobin Chunder Pal, Garden Reach.....	13	4	0
" Poorootom Bose, Kygram.....	10	0	0
" Dinonath Gangoly, Saidpur.....	20	0	0
" Sitol Persad, Bankipore.....	3	8	0
" Issan Chunder Mojomdar, Bharenga.....	5	0	0
" Shoseevoosun Dutt, Madhopoor.....	13	4	0
" Burroda Churn Ghose, Umballa.....	10	0	0
" Kristo Kally Mojomdar, Jalohuk.....	10	0	0
" Hurrinarain Sen, Bibigunge, Midnapore.....	5	0	0
" Sattya Krishna Sen, Camp Gaispur.....	6	0	0
" Nibarun Chunder Chatterjee, Dhonakhally	6	10	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—April, 17, 1878.

GENERAL.—Baboo Bhoobuneshur Sing, Deputy Magistrate, and Deputy Collector, Maldah, is appointed to have charge of the Nowada Division of the Gya district.

Mr. Thomas Jones, Officiating Fifth Judge and Clerk, Calcutta Court of Small Causes, is allowed furlough for eighteen months, under Section 12, Chapter IV of the Civil Leave Code, together with subsidiary leave for twelve days under section 24 (a) of the Code.

Mr. W. M. Souttar, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the afternoon of the 18th instant.

Baboo Mohendronath Bhattacharjee, M. A., Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bankoora, is transferred temporarily to the Sadar Station of the district of Hooghly.

Mr. F. W. J. Rees, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Maldah, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Moorsheadabad.

This cancels the orders of the 2nd instant, appointing Mr. C. C. Stevens to be Magistrate and Collector of Moorsheadabad.

Mr. R. Porch, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Noakholly, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Maldah.

Mr. J. Kelleher, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bhagulpore, is appointed to act temporarily as Magistrate and Collector of Maldah, until relieved by Mr. R. Porch, or until further orders.

Mr. A. Mansion is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Noakholly.

Mr. T. M. Kirkwood, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is posted to the district of Moorsheadabad.

Mr. F. B. Taylor, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nuddea, is transferred to Jessore.

Mr. W. H. M. Gun, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Balasore, is transferred to Nuddea.

Mr. R. H. Renny, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, Manbhoom, is appointed to act temporarily as Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum.

Mr. C. A. Wilkins reported his departure from India on furlough on the 22nd March last.

Mr. P. Nolan, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. W. M. Souttar, or until further orders.

POLICE.—Baboo Juggodish Nath Roy, District Superintendent of Police, Balasore, on leave is appointed to officiate as District Superintendent of Police, Tipperah, until further orders.

Mr. G. J. Cawley, District Superintendent of Police, reported his departure on furlough on the afternoon of the 2nd April 1878.

Mr. H. Lloyd-Jones, District Superintendent of Police, who reported his return from furlough on the 30th ultimo, is allowed subsidiary leave for eighteen days from that date, and is posted to Howrah.

Mr. E. M. Showers, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Howrah, is appointed to act, until further orders, as District Superintendent of Police, Nuddea.

Mr. A. Blair, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Nuddea, is appointed to act, until further orders, as District Superintendent of Police, Begra.

Mr. Charles Raban, Assistant Superintendent of Police, reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the 2nd instant.

MEDICAL.—Baboo Rakhal Dass Ghose, Resident Assistant Surgeon, Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, is allowed leave for one year under Section 9, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Koylash Chunder Bose, Resident Assistant Surgeon, Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, is allowed leave for one year under Section 9, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st May next, or such date as he may avail himself of it.

Assistant Surgeon Kunja Lal Sanyal, Resident Assistant Surgeon, Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, is appointed to have medical charge of the Serajunge Charitable Dispensary, Pubna, during the absence, on leave, of Assistant Surgeon Akbar Khan, or until further orders.

Surgeon-Major S. B. Partridge, Professor of Surgery, Calcutta Medical College, having reported his return from furlough, is allowed subsidiary leave from the 3rd to the 8th instant.

Assistant Surgeon Bollye Chunder Sen, Teacher of Medicine and Materia Medica, Temple Medical School, Patna, is also appointed to have charge of the Temple Medical School Hospital with effect from the 29th December last.

Assistant Surgeon Ramkali Gupta, Officiating Teacher of Anatomy, Physiology, and Surgery, Temple Medical School, is confirmed in that appointment, with effect from the 29th December last.

Assistant Surgeon Shib Chunder Bose, Officiating Teacher of Midwifery and Demonstrator of Anatomy, Temple Medical School, is confirmed in that appointment, with effect from the 29th December last.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

BENGAL SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the above Association will be held at the TOWN HALL, to-morrow, Tuesday, at 5 P.M., when the REV. DR. K. M. BANERJEE will read a paper on the "Origin and Development of Caste."

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NOTIFICATION.

An examination of candidates to fill vacancies in the staff of Extra Translators on the Court's Establishment, on the Appellate Side, will be held at this office on Monday the 29th instant at 11 o'clock A.M.

Of the candidates who may pass in Oordoo, three, of those who pass in Bengalee, two, and of those who pass in Assamese and Bengali, one, will be selected for appointment.

Forms of application for admission to the examination, in respect of which a fee of Rs. 10 will be chargeable are obtainable, together with copies of the rules prescribing the tests for the examination on application at this office. The forms when duly filled up and accompanied with copies of certificates will be received by the undersigned up to the 26th instant.

J. CRAWFURD,
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High Court, Calcutta. }
The 10th April. 1878. }

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Until the assimilation of the E. B. and N. B. State Railways rates is completed, the following are the charges on the latter line from station to station. The section from Raninagor to Chaitangram is one distance only.

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